

## THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE

Alternative voices about possible paths of development are there, but supporters of corporate capital and foreign capital are trying hard to stifle these voices. The CPI(M)'s principal argument, supplemented by the logic of guns, is about lack of money, as if not the real ingredients but money is important in pursuing an independent, pro-people path of development. It may be recalled that the modalities of alternative paths of development were discussed in an all-India convention, followed by a mass meeting, held in Kolkata on June 2-3 and attended quite a few persons of all-India fame. Intriguingly enough, the largest and most influential newspaper group of West Bengal, owing to their ardent support for Tata-Salim style of 'development', completely blacked out the news. This newspaper group, which has played a big role in elevating the marxist chief minister to the stature of a capitalist messiah, has all along acted as big champions of corporate capital.

The role of intellectuals and economists is worth a little comment. There are those whose brains are washed by the abracadabra dished out by the dominant neo-liberal economics and although sometimes critical of the repressive policies of the Government their endorsement of the line of wooing corporate and finance capital is unflinching. There are some noted progressives among the economists who have preferred silence. Some 'progressive' celebrities of the film world have brazenly tried to defend the Government and its policies, and have succeeded in bringing infamy to themselves.

Globalisation has created a facade of development, but it has furthered the economic and political polarisations and crises.

**AB**, Birbhum

MADHYANNAY  
MAY DAY

Yet another May Day with a difference. It was Madhyanna's 38th May Day celebration. As usual it was on the last day of May, 2007. Why Madhyanna's editor Sailendra-nath Basu, the sponsor of May Day function, has been maintaining this tradition of observing May Day on May 31, instead of May 1—the normal practice—for the last 38 years is not known.

By any standard this year's is May Day celebration by Sailendra-nath Basu and his well wishers was a grand success. Where Dilip Mitra discussed the recent trends in Indian Drama, his fortress, Frontiers editor Timir Basu & Prof Sudeshna Chakravarty dwelt at length over global warming and its consequences linking the Nandigram issue with globalisation. At the start of the meeting participants observed 2 minutes silence for those who were brutally killed by the CPM-led left front govt's police in Nandigram. And Nityananda Ghosh elaborated the significance of May Day even in the changed neo-liberal context. Also, Amal Ray, Soumen Guha and others graced the occasion in their own way. Finally Pratul Mukherjee, the renowned folk singer enthralled the audience through his popular mass songs including one dedicated to the struggling people of Nandigram.

**G N**, Kolkata