Let us do good to farmers: Governor

Scientific organisations must work for the benefit of the common man, says Sathasivam

Governor P. Sathasivam never misses an opportunity to remind the scientific community that their research should benefit the common man.

His inaugural address during the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here on Saturday was no different.

"No scientific organisation can succeed by remaining alienated from people. CMFRI should remain committed to the welfare of fisherfolk by helping them ensure sustainable fisheries through participatory mode," he said. Recalling that he hailed from a very remote village in Tamil Nadu, the Governor said being the son of a farmer he knew their pulse.

Onion prices
On the Union government's intervention to check the rising prices of onion during his tenure as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Sathasivam said the Centre had stabilised the prices by importing onion from Pakistan.

"This is one side of the coin. But the other side, you may not be aware of. Even top bureaucrats fail to notice that the same onion is sold at

Study suggests ban on light fishing

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has suggested that light fishing (fishing using lights) be banned within 12 nautical miles of the territorial waters to protect the interests of traditional fishermen.

However, a study report released by the research organisation here on Saturday said traditional light fishing practices using Chinese dip nets and boat seine nets should be encouraged beyond 12 nautical miles in certain districts of the State.

"Going by the study results, resource-specific light fishing such as oceanic squid fishing should be encouraged beyond 12 nautical miles through incentivised schemes by maritime States and the Central government," it said.

According to the study, the use of artificial lights should not be permitted from Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs) targeting tunas as resolved by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Highlighting the new research programmes, CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan said the institute would execute a major research project to address the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.