

## Let us do good to farmers: Governor

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

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI**

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



**Call for action:** Governor P. Sathasivam delivering the inaugural address at the CMFRI platinum jubilee celebrations in Kochi on Saturday.

₹3 to ₹4 a kilo in some seasons. We have to protect the interests of both consumers

and producers," he added. Suggesting the introduction of better scientific stor-

age facilities for farmers, the Governor said there were policy makers who were un-

aware of the problems facing people at the lower strata. "We have to do our best to help farmers and fishermen," he said.

Mr. Sathasivam also launched the platinum jubilee logo, postal cover, and CMFRI products and publications on the occasion.

J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR, New Delhi; A. Jayathilak, Chairman, MPEDA; Sumathi Ravichandran, Postmaster General (Kerala), Central Region; A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, CMFRI, and G. Maheswarudu, Principal Scientist were those who were present on the occasion.

## Study suggests ban on light fishing

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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 fishers.

However, a study report

released by the research organisation here on Saturday said traditional light fishing practices using Chinese dip nets and boat seines and trammel nets in certain districts of the State may be kept outside the purview of the recommendation.

"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 (DFAD) tar-

geting 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.