

'Govt should implement crop insurance scheme'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Thanjavur

CPI state secretary R Mutharasan on Monday reiterated the demand for implementation of the crop insurance scheme by the government itself and not by private companies.

Addressing media persons in Kumbakonam on Monday, he pointed out that when the crop insurance scheme was first announced by the Union government, it was implemented only by a government insurance company. Now it is being implemented through private companies which collect a premium from the farmers and also a "huge" amount from the gov-

ernments. However, only about 2-3% of the farmers who insured their crops get compensation in the event of crop loss and the private companies say the crops of the majority of farmers were not affected. On the one hand farmers are not benefited and on the other governments incur losses due to heavy payment to private insurance companies. Hence the government itself needs to implement the scheme, Mutharasan stated.

On TVK leader Vijay criticising the DMK, the CPI leader said he founded the party for that purpose only and hence there is no need for commenting on the actor's utterances.

11-year-old drowns in well

TIRUCHY: An 11-year-old boy was found dead in a well near Thottiyam in the district on Sunday. Police say the deceased, P Prashith, of Melakarthigaipatti in Thottiyam taluk was a Class 5 student at the pancharay union primary school in Balasamuthiram. On Saturday, he left home to play and did not return home for a long time. During search his family came to know that he went to a well in Arasalur to bathe. Prashith was found dead there. The Thottiyam police along with Musiri firefighters recovered his body and sent it to the Musiri government hospital for autopsy. The Thottiyam police have registered a case.

Pvt agencies forcing ryots to buy add-ons with fertilisers

D VINCENT AROCKIARAJ @Tiruchy

SAMBA paddy farmers in Tiruchy and surrounding districts, who have completed nursery transplantation, complain that private agencies force them to make additional purchases like pesticides alongside fertilisers, thus making them incur additional expenditure. Blaming the "insufficient" fertiliser allotment emboldening such shops to "exploit" them, farmers urge the authorities concerned to increase supplies of such crop essentials to the district as well as act against the dealers forcing them to make unnecessary purchases.

According to sources, samba paddy cultivation has been taken up over around one lakh acres this year in Tiruchy. As most farmers have completed nursery transplantation, the tender crop about 20 to 35 days old needs urea and other fertilisers like DAP. When farmers approach private agencies to buy them, the latter often force



them to purchase crop tonic or pesticide as well, S Lakshmanan, a farmer from Lalgudi, alleged. This practice makes small and marginal farmers to spend more money than necessary, he said.

N Veerasekaran, state spokesperson of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, said the aggrieved farmers are unable to benefit from primary agricultural credit co-operative societies (PACCS) as well as the authorities there prioritise distribution of fertilisers to loanee farmers, as per

norms. "We urge the cooperative department to purchase at least 60% of the fertiliser allotment for Tiruchy district. It would help non-loanee farmers avoid unnecessary expenses and get them fertilisers as per their requirement," he added.

Mentioning that non-loanee farmers cannot also purchase fertilisers for credit from the cooperative societies, S Palani, a farmer from Anthanallur block, said, "As small and marginal farmers are not in a position to access credit facilities, private agencies exploit their situation by forcing them to buy unwanted things for profit. Shortage of fertilisers is also one of the reasons the private traders force their sales on us."

Official sources mentioned a delay in shipment of fertilisers due to Cyclone Dana. Normalcy has, however, been restored now and regular shipments have begun arriving in Tamil Nadu. There would not be any more shortage, they added.

DMK MAN, 2 OTHERS HELD FOR ATTACK ON AIADMK MEMBER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tiruvavur

A total of three people, including a ward secretary of the DMK, from Mannargudi in the district were arrested on Monday for allegedly attacking an AIADMK member, his mother and a friend over previous enmity.

According to sources, there was enmity between G Sakthivel (53), who is the DMK's Mannargudi Ward 7 secretary and husband of municipal councillor Chithradevi, and P Ramesh (36), the AIADMK secretary for the same ward. On Sunday night Sakthivel called Ramesh on the phone and hurled abuses at him. He also demanded that he come down to Mahamariamman temple near Keezh Paalam. Following this Ramesh along with his

mother Vasantha and his friend Manikandan went to the spot and entered into an argument with Sakthivel and his associates.

I Dharmadurai (43) and C Ravi (51). During the altercation, Sakthivel and his two associates suddenly attacked Ramesh, his mother and Manikandan with a machete. In this, Ramesh suffered injuries on the head while Manikandan was injured on a finger. The attackers then fled the spot, sources said.

The Mannargudi police sent all the three injured to the Mannargudi government hospital from where Ramesh was referred to the Government Thanjavur Medical College Hospital (TMCH). Based on a complaint the Mannargudi police on Monday arrested Sakthivel, Dharmadurai and Ravi.



EXPRESS READ

Bikers assault conductor after blocking bus; held

Thanjavur: Two persons were arrested on Sunday night for allegedly blocking a private bus and assaulting its conductor. Sources say the duo on a bike chased a private bus proceeding from Kumbakonam to Thanjavur and blocked it at Vayalur on Sunday. They attacked conductor M Sathishkumar (28), a resident of Ammachathiram. Grievously injured, Sathishkumar was admitted to the Kumbakonam government hospital. The Thanjavur Taluk police registered a case on his complaint and arrested the duo, Ajithkumar (29) of Purasaikkudi and S Gulam Dastahir (25) of Sakkarappalli.

Armed gang loots cash, gold from businessman's house

Pudukkottai: An armed gang allegedly struck at a businessman's house in Gandaravakkottai of the district on Sunday night, assaulted him and escaped with ₹1.5 lakh in cash and gold. While the man is being treated for his injuries at a private hospital in Thanjavur, a probe is on to ascertain whether the same gang was behind a string of robberies reported in the locality the same night. Police say the gang on Sunday night broke open the back door of the residence of Syed Abbas (45) in Mullai Nagar. Gaining entry, the gang struck Syed on the head with a log, stole his wife's gold chain and money from cupboards.

Woodcutter dies as lopped branch falls on him

Thanjavur: A 45-year-old woodcutter died near Thanjavur on Monday allegedly after a tree branch fell on him. Sources say the incident occurred as a few workers were cutting a tamarind tree in Naduvur on Monday. A branch cut off by a worker fell on another worker, K Krishnamurthy of Innanviduthi, who was standing under the tree. The latter suffered grievous injuries and died on the spot. His body was sent to the Government Thanjavur Medical College Hospital (TMCH) for postmortem.

Man who snatched elderly woman's 'thali' arrested

Tiruchy: A 37-year-old man who on Monday stole an elderly woman's thali under the pretext of seeking directions and tried to flee on his two-wheeler was nabbed by her neighbours and handed over to the police, sources said. J Lilly Nair (64), a retired government teacher residing on Dindigul Road in Vaiyampatti, was on Monday morning sweeping the front portion of the house when the accused, K Kumar of Dindigul, riding a two-wheeler stopped and enquired her of an address. Suddenly, Kumar snatched the gold 'thali' she was wearing and began to ride away. Hearing her cries, Lilly's neighbours caught him after a chase.

AIADMK ward secy held for threatening wife with gun

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tiruvavur

THE Tiruvavur town police on Monday arrested an AIADMK ward secretary for allegedly threatening his wife with a country-made pistol. The person who allegedly handed him the pistol was also arrested.

Sources say R Balaji (42) of KDR Estate in Tiruvavur allegedly threatened his wife Meenakshi with a country-made pistol on Monday, demanding to withdraw the complaint she lodged at the all-women police station against his father Renganathan (70). Meenakshi managed to snatch the pistol from Balaji and handed it over to the Tiruvavur town police station and also lodged a complaint, leading to his arrest. His friend R Vijayabaskar (46) of Mettupalayam was also arrested for providing the pistol. Balaji is the AIADMK secretary of Ward 27 in Tiruvavur town.

Five Star Business Finance Limited advertisement containing public auction notice for immovable property, including details of bidders, property details, and terms of auction.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH advertisement for procurement of roads (DNF).

Regional Plant Resource Centre advertisement for E-Tender Call Notice for Supply of Orchid Plants, including details of the tender and contact information.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED advertisement for RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002, including details of properties and terms of sale.

Advertisement for a vacant site for sale, including details of the site location, area, and terms of sale, with contact information for the authorized officer.

