



Kisan Diwas

Why in News

The '[Kisan Diwas](#)' or **National Farmers Day** is observed across the country on 23rd December to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, the former Prime Minister of India.

- It is celebrated to **promote awareness among the citizens** to understand the importance of the **contributions of the farmers** to the society and overall economic and social development of a country.
- Government also aims to **encourage the farmers** across the country by organising various activities like debates and seminars on agriculture.

Key Points

- He was born in 1902 at Noorpur in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh and **was the Prime Minister**
- Being a proponent of rural and agricultural development he made continuous efforts for keeping agriculture at the centre of planning for India.
- He was given the nickname '**Champion of India's Peasants**' for his work towards upliftment of farmers and development of agriculture throughout the country.
- He took a **leading part in formulation and finalisation of the Debt Redemption Bill 1939**, in order to give relief to the peasantry from moneylenders.
- He was instrumental in bringing about the **Land Holding Act, 1960** which was aimed at lowering the ceiling on land holdings to make it uniform throughout the State.
- He **left Congress in 1967** and formed his independent party known as the **Bharatiya Lok Dal**.
- He served **twice as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**. He became **Prime Minister of India in 1979**.
- He was the author of **several books and pamphlets**, including '**Abolition of Zamindari**', '**Co-operative Farming X-rayed**', '**India's Poverty and its Solution**', 'Peasant Proprietorship or Land to the Workers' and 'Prevention of Division of Holdings Below a Certain Minimum'.

Importance of Agriculture in India

- Almost half of **India's rural households have insignificant stakes in agriculture**.
- According to the **2019 Situation Assessment Survey (SAS)**, there are **93.1 million agricultural households** in rural India.
- An agricultural household is defined as one **which produced field or horticultural crops, livestock, or other specified agricultural products** worth more than Rs 4,000 and had a member self-employed in agriculture in the 365 days preceding the survey.

of India from 28th July 1979 to 14th January 1980.

[Source: HT](#)

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