



Birth Anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh and National Farmers' Day 2024

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Why in News?

Recently, **National Farmers' Day** ([Kisan Diwas](#)) was celebrated on **23rd December 2024** to honor farmers and commemorate the birth anniversary of Sri [Chaudhary Charan Singh](#).

- Known as the '**Kisan Leader**,' his birth anniversary is celebrated as '**Kisan Diwas**' since **2001** for his contributions to **Indian agriculture** and rural development.

What are the Key Facts Related to Chaudhary Charan Singh?

- **About:**
 - Born in 1902 at Noorpur, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, he was an **Indian politician** and a **freedom fighter** who served as the 5th [Prime Minister of India](#) (1979-80).
 - He also served as **Deputy Prime Minister** (January-July 1979) and **Chief Minister** of Uttar Pradesh twice.
 - He represented **Chhaprauli** in the U.P. Legislative Assembly (1937, 1946, 1952, 1962, 1967) and later as MP for **Baghpat**.
- **Key Contributions:**
 - He drafted the [Debt Redemption Bill, 1939](#), relieving peasants from moneylenders and was instrumental in the [Land Holding Act, 1960](#), lowering land ceiling limits.
 - He advocated for [Minimum Support Price \(MSP\)](#), introduced the [Consolidation of Holdings Act \(1953\)](#) and [UP Zamindari and Land Reforms Act \(1952\)](#) to benefit the landless.
 - He proposed the [Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill \(1938\)](#), creating an agri-market infrastructure.
 - He elevated the **Rural Development Department** to a **Ministry** and played a crucial role in establishing [NABARD](#).
 - He promoted [decentralisation](#), grassroots governance, and **local economic autonomy**.
- **Social Contribution:**
 - He followed [Mahatma Gandhi](#) in a non-violent struggle for independence from the British Government and was imprisoned several times.
 - He advocated for **social justice** by **opposing caste divisions**, promoting **inter-caste marriages**, and **supporting quotas for agriculturists' dependents**, aligning with [BR Ambedkar's](#) vision of integrated social and economic reforms.
 - He authored influential books like '**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**'.
- **Relevance:**
 - Today's Initiatives like [Doubling Farmers' Income](#), [MSME promotion](#), [Panchayati Raj](#), and **ethical administration** are inspired by his visionary thoughts.
- Recently, in 2024 the government has honored him with the prestigious [Bharat Ratna](#), along with

4 other awardees- [Karpoori Thakur](#), [Mankombu Sambasivan \(MS\) Swaminathan](#), [Pamulaparthy Venkata \(P. V.\) Narasimha Rao](#), [Lal Krishna Advani](#).

- The government renamed the **Lucknow Airport** in 2008 as **Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport** in his honour.

- He passed away on **29th May 1987**. His memorial in New Delhi is called **Kisan Ghat**.

Choudhary Charan Singh was born on Dec 23, 1902

FARMERS' LEADER

Became 5th prime minister of India in 1979



His birthday is celebrated as **KISAN DIWAS** across the country

Abolished **Zamindari from UP** through the Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950 & brought about the Land holding Act, 1960

In 1938, introduced the **Agriculture Produce Market Bill** to protect the interest of farmers from the greed of traders

Authored several books including *Abolition of Zamindari*, *Co-operative Farming X-rayed & India's Poverty & its Solution*

Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow & Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Meerut have been named after him

What are the Related Initiatives for Farmers?

- [PM-KISAN](#)
- [National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana](#)
- [Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana \(RKVY\)](#).
- [Nutrient Based Subsidy \(NBS\) Programme](#)
- [Rashtriya Gokul Mission](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana](#)
- [Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana](#)
- [Kisan Credit Card](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q1. Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? (2020)

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets
2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks
3. Consumption requirements of farm households

4. Post-harvest expenses
5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (b)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/birth-anniversary-of-chaudhary-charan-singh-and-national-farmers-day-2024>

