



# 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**.

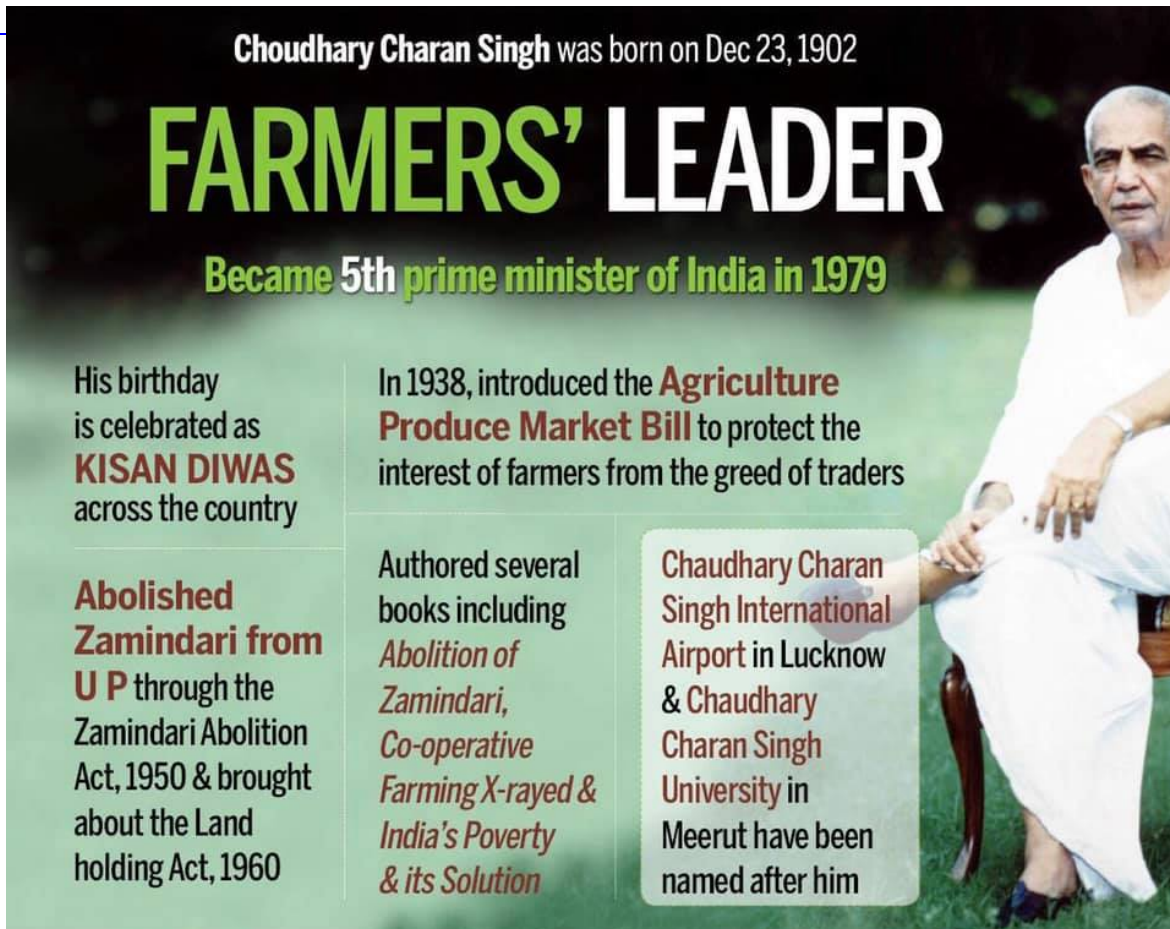
## What are the Key Facts Related to Chaudhary Charan Singh?

- **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 **29<sup>th</sup> May 1987**. His memorial in New Delhi is called **Kisan Ghat**.

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**Choudhary Charan Singh** was born on Dec 23, 1902

# FARMERS' LEADER

Became 5<sup>th</sup> prime minister of India in 1979

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

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

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

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

The infographic features a photograph of Choudhary Charan Singh sitting on a wooden chair outdoors. The background is a dark green field with a blurred horizon. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark green background.

## 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.drishtias.com/printpdf/birth-anniversary-of-chaudhary-charan-singh-and-national-farmers-day-2024>

