

National Farmers Day: A Day of Nation's Pride

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Thanking Those Who Work on Acres, Not in Hours
*Let us salute our farmers on this great day—
National Farmers' Day.*

A farmer is not just a farmer; he is a magician who produces wealth from the soil. Working through winter's chill and summer's heat, he ensures that the world has food on its plate. Farmers are the founders of human civilization. They

deserve our gratitude every day of the year, for we are fed three times a day only because of their relentless efforts.

Farmers form the backbone of India's economy and significantly contribute to rural prosperity. To honour and appreciate their vital role in the nation's development, National Farmers' Day is celebrated every year on **23 December**.

This day is dedicated to acknowledging the hard work, commitment, and sacrifice of the Indian farming community. Across the country, 23 December is observed as National Farmers' Day or Kisan Diwas,

highlighting the contributions of farmers to the nation's progress.

About National Farmers' Day

National Farmers' Day is celebrated annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister and a revered leader of farmers. He was a strong advocate for farmers' rights and welfare.

The day is marked by various activities such as

seminars, speeches, agricultural exhibitions, awareness campaigns, and community gatherings. These events highlight both the challenges and achievements of the farming community, providing an opportunity to express gratitude for their contributions.

India has always been an agriculture-based nation, with the primary sector forming a major part of the economy. Farmers are the strength and building blocks of rural India. Kisan Diwas is widely celebrated across agriculturally rich states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh.

National Farmers' Day is also observed globally:



- **Ghana** – First Friday of December
- **USA** – 12 October
- **Zambia** – First Monday of August
- **Pakistan** – 18 December (since 2019)

History of National Farmers' Day

Kisan Diwas was first celebrated in **2001**, when the Government of India decided to honour the legacy of Chaudhary Charan Singh by observing his birth anniversary as National Farmers' Day.

India, often described as a land of villages and agricultural abundance, depends heavily on farming for livelihoods—nearly half of the population is engaged in agriculture. Recognizing Chaudhary Charan Singh's significant contributions to agricultural reforms, rural development, and farmers' welfare, his birth anniversary was designated as Kisan Diwas.

Since then, the day has been marked by awareness campaigns and events across the country to emphasize the role of farmers and their indispensable contribution to the Indian economy.

Chaudhary Charan Singh: The Champion of Farmers

Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902–1987) was a prominent leader known for his unwavering commitment to farmers' rights. Born into a middle-class peasant family in Noorpur, Meerut district, he pursued higher education in science and law from Agra University. A strong proponent of rural development, he worked throughout his political career to advance the interests of farmers.

Early Life & Education

- Graduated in Science (1923)
- Post-graduation (1925), Agra University

- Trained as a lawyer; practiced in Ghaziabad and later Meerut

Political Career

- First elected to the U.P. Legislative Assembly in 1937 (Chhaprauli constituency)
- Served multiple terms (1946, 1952, 1962, 1967)
- Parliamentary Secretary under Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant
- Held ministerial portfolios including Revenue, Agriculture, Home, and Transport
- As Chief Minister, introduced the Land Holding Act, 1960
- Served as the 5th Prime Minister of India (28 July 1979 – 14 January 1980)

Major Contributions

- Led the formulation of the Debt Redemption Bill, 1939, offering relief from rural indebtedness
- Chief architect of land reforms in Uttar Pradesh
- Led efforts to abolish the Zamindari system (1952)
- Founded the Kisan Trust (1978), dedicated to educating rural communities
- Authored several influential works: *Co-operative Farming X-rayed*, *India's Poverty and Its Solution*, *Abolition of Zamindari*
- Known for simple living, integrity, discipline, and strong administrative values

Legacy

Chaudhary Charan Singh is remembered as a visionary leader dedicated to farmers' welfare. His birth anniversary is celebrated as Kisan Diwas to honour his monumental role in strengthening Indian agriculture and rural society.

Kisan Diwas Celebrations

On National Farmers' Day, numerous events are organized across the country, including:

- **Seminars & Workshops:** Discussions on innovations, challenges, and policies related to agriculture
- **Awards & Recognition:** Honouring outstanding farmers for their achievements
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Promoting modern farming techniques, government schemes, and sustainable practices
- **Tributes:** Cultural programs and speeches to honour Chaudhary Charan Singh

Significance of National Farmers' Day

Kisan Diwas highlights the immense value of farmers in nation-building. The day emphasizes:

- Recognition of farmers' dedication, sacrifice, and contribution
- Awareness of their social and economic well-being
- Importance of agriculture in India's GDP and employment base
- Need for policies supporting sustainable farming

- Challenges such as climate change, financial limitations, and technology adoption

Conclusion

National Farmers' Day is a momentous occasion that honours the tireless efforts of farmers who feed the nation and sustain the economy. Observed on 23 December, this day commemorates the legacy of Chaudhary Charan Singh and reminds us of the critical challenges farmers continue to face.

Kisan Diwas provides a platform for farmers to voice their concerns and encourages society to appreciate their hard work. Modern agricultural advancements offer new opportunities for sustainable and climate-resilient farming, ensuring a better future for rural communities.

As we celebrate National Farmers' Day 2024, it is essential to continue supporting farmers through better policies, technology, and awareness. Farmers are the backbone of the nation, and honouring their labour is our collective responsibility.

Happy National Farmers' Day to all the farmers who nurture the land and feed the world!