

'Agri growth needs to triple for \$1 trn goal'

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Lucknow: Paying tribute to former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh on his 121st birth anniversary, celebrated as Kisan Samman Diwas, chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday highlighted the pro-farmer schemes of the BJP governments in the Centre and state but added that in order to meet the goal of making Uttar Pradesh a USD 1 trillion economy by 2027-28, agricultural growth needs to triple.

Speaking about the 9% growth achieved in the sector till now, Yogi credited the hard work put in by farmers and also the respect accorded to them by the BJP governments. During the event, the CM inaugurated Kisan Mitra AI app and honoured farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, FPOs and agricultural scien-



CM Yogi Adityanath unveiled statue of Chaudhary Charan Singh in Moradabad

tists. He also released the Yash Gatha Vikas Yatra booklet.

Remembering Singh, who was also UP CM, Yogi quoted him saying that 'India cannot become rich as long as farmers remain poor, and rural India is the real India. The

path to India's prosperity passes through fields'. The CM said: "Chaudharyji believed that an aware and empowered rural population is the foundation of the largest democracy. Through various initiatives, he worked to bring about positive changes in the lives of farmers."

He added that over the past 9.5 years since BJP came to power in the Centre, people have witnessed a changing India and for the first time, farmers felt that they were a primary agenda for the government. Initiatives like PM Kisan Fasal Bima Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi had brought about significant changes in the lives of farmers, he said.

"Under Kisan Samman Nidhi, 15 instalments have been disbursed to farmers so far. In UP alone, over Rs 60,000 cro-

re have reached the accounts of more than 2.61 crore farmers. We can make agriculture profitable through reforms. Therefore, efforts have been made to provide additional irrigation facilities to 22-23 lakh hectares. Sugarcane farmers have received more than Rs 2.25 lakh crore in their accounts in the last six years. Direct procurement of paddy and wheat and the benefit of MSP through DBT have been provided for the first time," he said. The CM said efforts had been made to promote natural farming to ensure every market, agricultural science centre and certifications from universities result in higher profits for farmers. Among major government initiatives for farmers, he said, an AI application had been launched where they could pose questions and get answers on their phones.