

## PM Modi Releases 17<sup>th</sup> Instalment of PM-KISAN Yojana; Transfers Rs. 20,000 crores to over 9.26 crore Farmers



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024, released the 17th installment of around Rs 20,000 crore under PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana and awarded certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups, known as Krishi Sakhis in Varanasi. The event was attended by Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, Union Agriculture Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and many other officials.

Prime Minister started his speech by welcoming all the farmers and mentioned that Rs 20,000 crore had been deposited in the accounts of crores of beneficiaries of PM-KISAN scheme. He also talked about the Krishi Sakhi initiative as a significant step towards creating 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis'. This initiative, he said, will ensure dignity and a stable source of income for the beneficiary women. He highlighted that the PM KISAN Samman Nidhi has become the world's biggest direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme, with over Rs 3.25 lakh crore transferred into farmers' bank accounts, including Rs 700 crore to families in Varanasi alone.

PM also praised the use of technology in delivering benefits to the deserving recipients and credited the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra for enabling more than 1 crore farmers to register under the PM KISAN scheme. He added that rules and regulations have been simplified to improve accessibility. Highlighting the contributions of women as Asha workers and Bank Sakhis, PM Modi said the country will now witness their capabilities as Krishi Sakhis.

The newly appointed Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, addressed the audience, saying that agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and the farmer is its soul. He stated that we consider farmers as God and serving them is

like worshipping the Lord. The minister further mentioned that a total of about Rs 3.25 lakh crore has been deposited in farmers' accounts so far under the scheme. Chouhan emphasized that the government is continuously working to double the income of farmers through the introduction of new initiatives and irrigation technologies while simultaneously cutting production costs. Additionally, it provides substantial subsidies, making fertilizers affordable for farmers, he added.