



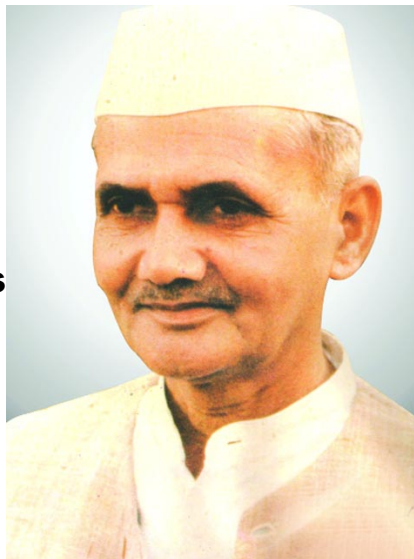
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Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti

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Why in News

2nd October is the birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri. He served as the second Prime Minister of India.



Key Points

- He was born on 2nd October, 1904 in Mughalsarai, a small railway town seven miles from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Participated in the freedom movement since 1930.**
- He joined the **Kashi VidyaPeeth** in Varanasi, one of the many national institutions set up in defiance of the British rule.
 'Shastri' was the **bachelor's degree** awarded to him by the Vidya Peeth but has stuck in the minds of the people as part of his name.
- He was **minister in the Union Cabinet from 1951 to 1956** when he **resigned taking responsibility for the railway accident** and later from 1957-1964.

- He was **India's second Prime Minister (1964-66)**.
 - During Shastri's brief Prime Ministership, the country faced **two major challenges**. While India was still recovering from the **economic implications of the war with China (1962)**, **failed monsoons, drought** and serious food crisis presented a grave challenge. The country also faced a **war with Pakistan in 1965**.
 - Shastri's famous slogan '**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**', symbolised the country's resolve to face both these challenges.
 - Shastri's Prime Ministership **came to an abrupt end on 10th January 1966**, when he suddenly expired in **Tashkent**, then in USSR and currently the capital of Uzbekistan.
 - He was there to discuss and sign an agreement (Tashkent Agreement) with Muhammad Ayub Khan, the then President of Pakistan, to end the war.
 - He signed **an agreement with then Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)** on persons of Indian origin there, in **1964** — an **endorsement of the importance of neighbourhood**.
- He was the **first person to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna (1966)**.

Source: PIB