Lal Bahadur Shastri

**Introduction**

Lal Bahadur Shastri was the 2nd Prime minister of Independent India and was from the Congress party. He became the prime minister after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru.

He was born in a poor family.He was a part of a Kayastha Hindu family and lived in Mughalsarai in Uttar Pradesh until his father died of bubonic plague when he was just a year and half old. His mother, who was pregnant with her third child, took him and his elder sister to her father’s home at Ramnagar. His father’s name was Sharad Prasad Shrivastava. His mother’s name was Ramdulari Devi, his elder sister’s name was Kailashi Devi and his younger sister’s name was Sundari Devi. He went to Varanasi to attend high school and he lived there with his uncle.

**Non - cooperation Movement**

Lal Bahadur Shashtri started getting interested in the non - cooperation movement while he was studying at Harish Chandra High School. When Lal Bahadur Shastri was 16 years old, he got inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s call to his countrymen to join the non - cooperation movement and decided to give up on his studies. This decision was not supported by his family and they were not able to dissuade him from doing so.  
He became a part of Mahatma Gandhi’s non - cooperation movement and got arrested in 1921 but was released soon because he was a minor. After this, he studied in the Kashi Vidyapeeth, a nationalist university. After his course in 1926, he was given a title ‘Shastri’ which was a bachelor’s degree awarded by the university. However, this degree stuck as a part of his name.  
He also enrolled himself as a member of the Servants of the People society and worked for the upliftment of Harijans at Muzaffarpur.  
In 1927 he got married to Lalita Devi in a traditional way. The only dowry he accepted was a chakra and a few yards of cloth.  
In 1930, when Gandhiji broke the salt law by launching the Dandi march, Lal Bahadur Shastri launched many campaigns against the British and continued the freedom struggle. During the freedom struggle he must have gone to jail for about 9 years in total. During this time one of his daughters died and his son fell seriously ill due to influenza.  
In 1942, when Gandhiji had issued the quit India speech, Shastri ji had just come out of jail but that did not stop him from taking part in the freedom movement. He sent instructions to freedom fighters from Nehru ji’s home in Anand Bhavan. After a few days, he was arrested and imprisoned until 1946.

**Part of the Government after Independence**

After India’s independence, the Congress Party came to power with Jawaharlal Nehru as the Prime MInister. At this time Shastri became the Home / Police Minister and the Transport minister of the state of Uttar Pradesh. He made many policies as the Home Minister like, appointing female conductors and ordering the Police to use water jets instead of batons to disperse unruly crowds.  
In 1951, he was made the General Secretary of the Congress Committee. He also became a Cabinet minister and was responsible for the victories of the Congress Party in the elections of the years 1952, 1957 and 1962. He held several positions in the Cabinet such as Minister for Railways, Transport and Communication, Commerce and Industry, Home minister and a Minister without a Portfolio when Nehru ji was ill.   
On 27th May 1964, Nehru ji died in office and left a void, then the Congress party president made Lal Bahadur Shastri the Prime Minister on 9th June 1964.

**Prime Minister**

During his tenure as the Prime Minister, the government was trying to make Hindi the national language of the country.