

PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS (27/06/2026)

Q1. Assess the significance of the Lal Bahadur Shastri era (1964–1966) in shaping India’s political leadership, food security, and national security. (150 words, 10 marks)

Q2. Pressure groups play an indispensable role in a democratic polity, yet their growing influence also raises concerns about transparency and accountability. Critically examine the role of pressure groups in India. (250 words, 15 marks)

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Model Answer

1. Introduction:

Lal Bahadur Shastri succeeded Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 during a period of economic stress, food shortages and external security challenges. Despite his brief tenure, he laid important foundations for India's resilience.

Body:

- National Security: Led India during the 1965 Indo-Pak War, boosting military morale and strategic confidence.
- 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan': Linked national security with agricultural self-reliance.
- Food Security: Promoted higher agricultural production, institutional support and policies that paved the way for the Green Revolution.
- Economic Management: Encouraged austerity, public participation and self-reliance during food shortages.
- Foreign Policy: Signed the Tashkent Declaration in 1966, demonstrating commitment to peaceful conflict resolution.

Conclusion:

Although his tenure lasted less than two years, Shastri's ethical leadership, decisive wartime response and emphasis on agricultural transformation left a lasting imprint on India's development and security trajectory.

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2. Introduction:

Pressure groups are organised groups that seek to influence public policy without seeking political power. They act as an important link between citizens and the government.

Body:

Role of Pressure Groups:

- Articulate and aggregate interests of different social, economic and professional groups.
- Strengthen participatory democracy by influencing legislation and public policy.
- Provide expert knowledge and technical inputs to policymakers.
- Promote social justice through issue-based campaigns (environment, RTI, women's rights).
- Act as watchdogs and improve governmental accountability.

Challenges:

- Unequal influence due to financial resources and lobbying.
- Lack of transparency and internal democracy.
- Possibility of policy capture by corporate or sectional interests.
- Sometimes encourage identity politics and protests affecting public order.

Way Forward:

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- Transparent lobbying regulations.
- Mandatory disclosure of funding sources.
- Wider stakeholder consultation in policymaking.
- Strong ethical standards and public accountability.

Conclusion:

Pressure groups enrich democratic governance by representing diverse interests. However, transparency, accountability and institutional regulation are essential to ensure that they strengthen rather than distort democratic decision-making.