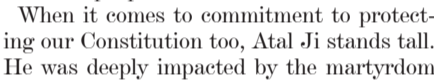


A tribute to Atal Ji, the statesman who shaped India with his vi-sion and resolve

When it comes to the social sector, an initiative like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan highlights how Atal Ji dreamt of building an India where modern education is accessible to people across the nation, particularly for the poor and marginalised sections. At the same time, his gov-



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Brant recorded in Das Narrenschiff (1494 *The Ship of Fools*) the custom of placing branches of fir trees in houses . Even though there is some uncertainty about the precise date and origin of the tradition of the Christmas tree .Towards the end of the 18th century the practice of giving gifts to family members became well established .Theologically ,the feast day reminded Christians of God's gift of Jesus to mankind even as the coming of Wise Men or Magi to Bethlehem suggested that Christmas was somehow related to giving gifts .The practice of giving gifts ,which dates back to 15th century ,contributed to the view that Christmas was a secular holiday focused on family and friends .In European countries ,gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve ,December 24 ,in keeping with the notion that the baby Jesus baby was born on the night of December 24.The morning of December 25,however has become the time for the exchange of gifts in North America .Given the importance of Christmas as one of the major Christian feast days ,most European Countries observe ,Christian influence ,December 26 as second Christmas Day .In short let us follow the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ and live a life of contentment and resolve to be guided by the life and teachings of Lord Jesus Christ .