# **EDITORIAL**

### TRANSFORMING MODERN WORLD

telecommunications, and other technologies to store, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate data. IT plays an essential role in the modern world, driving advancements across nearly every sector. From businesses and education to healthcare and entertainment, IT has transformed the way we live, work, and interact. The rapid evolution of IT in recent decades has created a digital revolution that has made information more accessible, efficient, and integrated than ever before.

The physical components of computers and devices form the foundation of IT. This includes servers, personal computers, laptops, mobile devices, and networking equipment like routers and

Software refers to the programs and applications that enable hardware to perform specific tasks. Operating systems (like Windows, macOS, and Linux) and application software (like Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, and enterprise resource planning systems) are crucial to the functionality of IT.

This involves the interconnection of various hardware devices through local area networks (LAN), wide area networks (WAN), and the internet. Networking allows data to flow across different devices and systems, enabling communication and collaboration

The management, storage, and analysis of vast amounts of data have become central to IT. Databases, cloud computing, and big data analytics enable businesses and governments to manage and

derive insights from the information that drives decision-making. As reliance on digital systems increases, so does the need for robust cybersecurity measures. IT security involves protecting systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, cyberattacks, and data breaches. IT has revolutionized how businesses operate, making processes more efficient and streamlined. The rise of enterprise software systems, e-commerce platforms, and digital marketing strategies has transformed how companies interact with customers. Cloud computing has allowed businesses to scale resources as needed, while big data analytics provides deep insights into consumer behavior and market trends. Moreover, automation and artificial intelligence (AI) are helping businesses to reduce costs and improve productivity. The educational sector has been greatly enhanced by IT. E-learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and online courses allow students to access knowledge anytime, anywhere. Digital tools like interactive whiteboards, educational apps, and virtual labs are enriching traditional teaching methods. IT also plays a crucial role in research and the dissemination of information, allowing for faster collaboration and information exchange. IT has revolutionized healthcare through innovations like electronic health records (EHRs), telemedicine, and medical imaging technologies. These tools allow healthcare providers to offer better services and more accurate diagnoses. AI and machine learning are also making strides in drug discovery, personalized medicine, and predictive analytics for patient care. The internet, social media, and mobile technology have transformed communication globally. IT enables real-time communication through email, video conferencing, and social networking sites, making the world more interconnected.

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

oday, 25th December is a very special day for all of us. Our nation marks the ▲ 100th Jayanti of our beloved former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. He stands tall as a statesman who continues to inspire countless people.

Our nation will always be grateful to Atal Ji for being the architect of India's transition into the 21st century. When he took oath as PM in 1998 our nation had passed through a period of political instability. In about 9 years we had seen 4 Lok Sabha elections. The people of India were getting impatient and also sceptical about governments being able to deliver. It was Atal Ji who turned this tide by providing stable and effective governance. Coming from humble roots, he realised the struggles of the common citizen and the transformative power of effective governance.

One can see the long-term impact of Atal Ji's leadership in so many sectors around us. His era marked a gigantic leap in the world of Information Technology, telecom and communications. This was particularly important for a nation like ours, which is also blessed with a very dynamic Yuva Shakti. The NDA Government under Atal Ji made the first serious attempt to make technology accessible to the common citizens. At the same time, there was foresight in connecting India. Even today, most people recall the Golden Quadrilateral Project, which connected the length and breadth of India. Equally notable were the Vajpayee Government's efforts to enhance local connectivity as well through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Similarly, his Government gave a push to metro connectivity by doing extensive work for the Delhi Metro, which stands out as a worldclass infrastructure project. Thus, the Vajpayee Government not only boosted economic growth but also brought distant regions closer, fostering unity and integration.

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-



ernment presided over many economic reforms which set the stage for India's economic surge after several decades of following an economic philosophy which encouraged cronyism and stagnation.

A wonderful example of Vajpayee Ji's leadership can be seen in the summer of 1998. His Government had just assumed office and on 11th May, India conducted the Pokhran tests, known as Operation Shakti. These tests exemplified the prowess of India's scientific community. The world was stunned that India had done the tests and expressed their anger in no uncertain terms. Any ordinary leader would have buckled, but Atal Ji was made differently. And what happened? India stood firm and resolute with the government calling for another set of tests two days later, on 13th May! If the tests of the 11th showed scientific skill, the ones on 13th showed true leadership. It was a message to the world that gone were the days when India would buckle under threats or pressure. Despite facing international sanctions, the then NDA government of Vajpayee Ji stood firm, articulating India's right to safeguard its sovereignty while simultaneously being the strongest proponent of world peace.

Atal Ji understood Indian democracy and also the need to make it stronger. Atal Ji presided over the creation of the NDA, which rede-fined coalitions in Indian politics. He brought people together and made NDA a force for development, national progress and regional ambitions. His Parliamentary brilliance was seen throughout his political journey. He belonged to a party with a handful of MPs but his words were enough to rattle the might of the all-powerful Congress Party that time. As Prime Minister, he blunted the criticisms of the Opposition with style and substance. His was a career spent largely in the Opposition benches but never carried any trace of bitterness against anyone, even though the Congress stooped to new lows by going to the extent of calling him a traitor!

He was also not one to cling on to power through opportunistic means. He preferred to resign in 1996 instead of following the path of horse-trading and dirty politics. In 1999, his Government was defeated by 1 vote. A lot of people told him to challenge the immoral politics happening then but he preferred to go by the rules. Eventually, he came back with another resounding mandate from the people.

When it comes to commitment to protecting our Constitution too, Atal Ji stands tall. He was deeply impacted by the martyrdom

of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Years later, he was a pillar of the anti-Emergency movement. In the run-up to the 1977 elections after the Emergency, he agreed to merger of his own Party (Jan Sangh) into the Janata Party. I am sure it would have been a painful decision but for him, and the others, but safeguarding the Constitution was all that mattered.

It is also noteworthy how deeply rooted Atal Ji was in Indian culture. Upon becoming India's External Affairs Minister, he became the first Indian leader to speak in Hindi at the United Nations. This one gesture showcased his immense pride in India's heritage and identity, leaving an indelible mark on the global stage.

Atal Ji's persona was magnetic and his life was enriched by his love for literature and expression. A prolific writer and poet, he used words to inspire, provoke thought, and even offer solace. His poetry, often reflective of his inner struggles and hopes for the nation, continues to resonate with people across age groups.

For so many Bharatiya Janata Party Karyakartas like me, it is our privilege that we were able to learn and interact with a person like Atal Ji. His contribution to the BJP was foundational. In those days to spearhead an alternative narrative to the dominant Congress showed his greatness. Alongside stalwarts like Shri L.K. Advani Ji and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi Ji he nurtured the party from its formative years, guiding it through challenges, setbacks and triumphs. Whenever the choice came between ideology and power, he always chose the former. He was able to convince the nation that an alternative world view from the Congress was possible and such a world view could deliver.

On his 100th Jayanti, let us rededicate ourselves to realising his ideals and fulfilling his vision for India. Let us strive to build an India that embodies his principles of good governance, unity, and progress. Atal Ji's unwavering belief in the potential of our nation continues to inspire us to aim higher and work harder.

(The writer is Prime Minister of India)

# Caring For The Children

### G.L KHAJURIA

ow many of us oftenly accept our attachment in real sense of term in so for as love affection and fantasies of our kids and children are concerned. Well, the children mean much more than what we think of them. They are not only our children merely by giving birth to them but in broader spectrum they are the fountain head of the nation. They are the light and hope of the nation for the future. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Dr. A.P.J Kalam were most affectionate towards children. It has rightly been quoted, child is a father of the nation. Today's children are tomorrow's scientists, Scholars, Educationist and ofcourse plentitude of Doctors, Engineers and bureaucrats apart from distinguished luminaries, cine stars and record break-

They are the best guardian of Borders who play with their lives defending the nation. Children are the future of the nation in more than many ways. They are the blooming flowers of dawn and seedlings of the Nurseries which make the surrounds vibrant and slabrous when nurtured and nourished.

Children are of utmostly warranting care of molding the first step to success in life's run -race. Any right or wrong step can make them heaven or hell apart landing into the Sea of troubles. It, therefore, becomes our boundan duty to boost their upbringings with rightful and dedicated devotional perspectives. If the natural and social cohesiveness between the father and the mother is carefully maintained, the children by all means are sure to succeed but if the same delicate fabric is distorted, there is every apprehension of their being carried away on wrong track.

It is no denying the fact that the parents do their utmost and sacrifice their everything for their children. Right from the time a child is born, the conscientious young parents see to it that their child has everything as for example Education, Clothings, Toys and whatever is available within their best possible reach. They leave no stone unturned for their child's upbringing and fulfilling his every demand and desire.

However, many strings are attached to their children by the over ambitious parents who expect the child as miniature adult, a master of all trades they also expect them to excel in every field whether in studies or sports, reading, writing, oratory so to say on all aspects of life and aspire them second to none. And there lies their happiness and all hope. In such pursuits, the children are deprived of their fundamental rights of being child. The kaleidoscopic magic of childhood, the charms of wandering through delightful avenues are get lost. Apart from all these, the rainbowcoloured fantasies vanish like a silver lining in dark clouds. Do we as wise parents are doing justice by depriving them of charming dream from which they don't want to part with.

Now, let us have a glimpse of surrounding scenario currently looming large amongst little kids and up springing children. The early morning picture is too amusing to have appreciations for all the wise parents in that their little kids are pushed into the labyrinth of learning with heavy load of books and note books beyond their caring capacity on piggybacks. This way they are confronted with triple-load - Physical, mental and Psychological.

Are we meting out justice to our budding kids and children is a very pertinent point to ponder upon. The higher authorities at the helm should come to the forefront in framing policies and promulgating parameters in association with the conscientious parents.

How is the life of children of today? They are weaned straight from milk bottle to the nursery school! The more the homework he or she carries, the better school is considered to be. Not to be left behind in race for excellence, the child is sent for tuition and the teacher imparting tution to more than 30-40 children at a time. Things are no better at home too. In many rich homes where parents are over-obsessed with their pursuits, the children are oftenly diverted to video games, expensive toys, computers to the extent of internet and social medias apart from mobile of all hues in a way that the very spirit and sanctity becomes somehow obliterated by overuse, misuse or to say abuse.

The enigmatic scenario doesn't stop over here. The generous amount of pocket money even in mediocre families. whether the mother is employeed or otherwise routinely a housewife, there is hardly any time for the family members who can share their feelings to foster their togetherness. Whatever little leisure is there it is squeezed out of the marathon of life and is swallowed by the TV serials which instead of creating congenial environment add fuel to fire in hassle-packed progression which way in becomes like a quick-fix in family trifling over frivolous issues thereby hooking the altitudinal inertia of our kids, children and their associates.

Surveys show, the more children watch the less they observe. Their thinking and responses become adultlike in other words around the minds of the children find shortcuts into adulthood without having the know-how of natural process of growing. And all these factors in togetherness are sure to create a generation of mini adults lacking imitative, motivation and enterprise. There is a tendency to put the whole blame at the door of school—and the education system. It is an admitted fact that schools complicate the matters but at the same time, solution lies at home. It is, infact, the home that moulds the character of the child.

The kids and the small children are extremely sensitive and receptive as they are growing all the time and in the

process they are accepting or rejecting the goods and bads as they are physically fragile and mentally fertile. So, in all manifestations, parent's guidance play a pivotal role in moulding the life of the

The educationist opined that a child is influenced by three prominent factorsthe school where he studies, the friends and his associates with whom he plays and shares his feelings and finally home where he spends maximum time with parents and other kids/children of his relation. So, home is predominantly the best school for the kids and young chil-

Considering today's lifestyle, in almost all families dinner time is an ideal time. It is worthwhile to say that after the dinner is over, there is a cool and congenial environment when the children can conveniently be convinced to sha their feelings and aspirations with their parents and the relatives and their kids and children on all matters and so such this can play a prominent part in moulding and shaping the future of both the kids and the children.

Brant

(The author is Former Deputy Conservator of Forest, J&K)

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## Christmas the birth Day of esus

### OMKAR DATTATRAY

The festival of Christmas is celebrated worldwide by Christians and non-Christians on 25th December annually with great pomp and show .Christmas is the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ and it was on this date that this prophet of humanity ,peace,love and spirituality was born to shepherd parents. The most significant holiday for the Christian world is the birth day of Jesus Christ and it is celebrated across the world with great pomp and show not only by the people of Christian faith but by the non-Christians as well. Even being a traditional Christian holiday ,Christmas is widely celebrated worldwide including in non-Christian countries .Some traditions of the season celebration are so old that goes up to pre-Christian era or secular origins .Nowadays ,the most common is the exchange of gifts and cards with beloved ones .Christmas dinner ,Christmas carols and other celebrations alongside local traditions ,bringing together each place's custom to this time of the year. Although Christians are a minority in India ,Christmas in our country is celebrated with enthusiasm in all states and major cities. The country's famous adage "unity in Diversity "derives the whole festivity. In south India, one of the most common Christmas celebrations is putting a burning

earthen lamp on their roofs, sym-

bolizing that Jesus is the world's light .In the northwest .Christians tell Christmas stories and sing carols in their dialects .In some places of northwest, devotees fast December 1st until December 24 and end it with a sumptuous feast at midnight on December 25.Christmas is celebrated on 25th December every year by the world Christian community. The day holds much significance for Christians as they believe that Jesus Christ was born on the same day at Bethlehem .It is observed as a public holiday in several Christian majority countries .Also ,in some countries were Christians are in minority it is still observed as a holiday. The festival calls for a grand celebration and is one of the major festivals .The preparations begin much in advance with the shopping enthusiastically for gifts and other articles .Children are happiest around the festival as they get lots of gifts and cakes .Families sing, dance and eat together with family and friends on Christmas .It is the most important festivals of the Christians and also most awaited one .The popularity of the festival could well be ascertained from the fact that every year in the month of December, gifts and other items worth billions are sold across the world , mostly in western countries. Christmas is indeed a festival of great significance for Christians and is celebrated with much gaiety and fanfare by the



people especially by the Christians .It is observed to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ ,whom the Christians believe to be the son of God .The festival calls for a grand celebration and is one of the major festivals .Christmas means Feast day of Christ .Christmas is the festival of joy .It is about sharing and helping others .On this day people remember Jesus Christ and his lessons of life .This festival encourages us to make merry and be happy .Its sole aim is to teach us that the light of the Lord always guards us and thus we must follow the message of Jesus Christ and remember him. Christmas is the Christian festival celebrating the birth day of Jesus Christ .Since the early 20th century, Christmas has been a secular family holiday observed by Christians and non-Christians alike ,devoid of Christian elements

,and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. In this secular Christmas celebrations, a mythical figure named Santa Claus plays a pivotal role .The early Christian community distinguished between the identification of the date of Jesus birth and the liturgical celebration of that event .The actual observance of the day of Jesus birth was long in coming .In particular .during first two centuries of Christianity ,there was strong opposition to recognizing birthdays of martyrs or ,for that matter of Jesus .Numerous church Fathers offered sarcastic comments about pagan custom of celebrating birthdays when in fact ,saints and martyrs should be honored on the days of their martyrdom -their true birthdays from Church's perspective .The precise origin of assigning December 25 as the birth date of Jesus is

.December 25, was first identified as the date of Jesus birth by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 and later became the universally accepted date .One widespread explanation of the origin of this date is that December 25 was the Christianizing of the dies solis invicti nati (day of the birth of the unconquered sun), a popular holiday in the Roman Empire that celebrated the winter solstice as a symbol of the resurgence of the sun, the casting away of the winter and the heralding of the rebirth of spring and summer .Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world .Christmas is a public holiday in many countries and is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians ,as well as culturally by many non-Christians and forms an integral part of the holiday season surrounding it .Indeed ,after December 25 had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus birth ,Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of son .One of the difficulties with this view is that it suggests a nonchalant willingness on the part of the Christian church to appropriate a pagan festival when the early church was so intent on distin-

unclear .The New Testament pro-

vides no clue in this regard

guishing itself categorically from pagan beliefs and practices .A second view suggests that December 25 became the date of Jesus birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation , when the light was created, as the day of Jesus conception that is March 25 .December 25, nine months later became the date of Jesus birth .For a long time the celebration of Jesus birth was observed in conjunction with his baptism celebrated January 6.Christmas began to be widely celebrated with a specific liturgy in 9th century but did not attain the liturgical importance of either Good Friday or Easter ,the other two major Christian holidays .Roman Catholic churches celebrate the first Christmas mass at midnight and protestant churches have increasingly held Christmas candlelight services late on the evening of December 24.A special service of "lessons and carols" intertwines Christmas carols with scripture readings narrating salvation history from the Fall in the Garden of Eden to coming of Christ .The service ,inaugurated by E.W.Benson and adopted at the university of Cambridge has become widely popular .None of the contemporary Christmas customs have their origin in theological or liturgical affirmations, and most are of fairly recent date. The Renaissance humanist Sebastian

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.