

## **Performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words**

### Bridging the regional disparity & ensuring harmony in ethnicity

Gandhi Institute For Technology (GIFT), a premier technical institute in Odisha is known for its cross-cultural initiatives that fosters strong bonding between student and student, between student and teacher, between student and support staff. Unlike other institutions, GIFT adheres to the House system instead of conducting classes branch wise in 1<sup>st</sup> year. Different houses of the institute have been christened after eminent scientists and engineers of India, who have excelled remarkably in their respective fields. Houses like KALAM, BHABA, VISVESVARAYA, KHOSLA, ANAND, RAMAN and BEHERA have been formed with an objective of imbuing a sense of greatness in our students that these great personalities have possessed. Students get to learn about the life history of these eminent personalities and try to follow the foot prints of the rich legacy that they have left. Naming the houses after these great persons is of paramount importance as the younger generation get inquisitive to learn more about them as they carry the same house name till the completion of their courses.

Students are segregated and accommodated in different houses from the 1<sup>st</sup> year itself irrespective of their branches. Since students are from heterogeneous background it becomes quite a challenge for them to interact and mingle with one another from the very first day of joining the college. When students are put in houses, instead of branches they are identified as the student of a particular house. This practice continues till the final year. Although classes are conducted branch wise from 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards for academic convenience, a student remains the member of a designated house till his/her completion of the course. One of the striking advantages of this house system is that, the students immediately after their joining begin to feel as member of a TEAM and pledge to work cohesively with all the members of the house to bring as much as laurels possible for the house in different events/ competitions conducted during an academic session. Different types of competitions like sports, games , athletics, poster presentation, tech fests are being represented by house names only. Everyone gets involved with a purpose of taking their houses to the top level .The involvement, sincerity and dedication shown by fellow house members at each of the performances is remarkable and noteworthy.

Not only the students, the teaching fraternity and the non-teaching staff are also included in different houses. Every individual staff of GIFT is allotted with a specific house from the date of their joining, which fosters a sense of community throughout the college. Any kind of competition; be it sports; co-curricular activities or Tech Fests are represented by students with house names only and equally complimented by teachers and non-teaching staff. One of the most striking and appealing system of GIFT is the regular conduction of the Musical Night, titled JUBILANCE comprising students, teachers and non-teaching staff which create bonhomie among all. The urge to perform well, to secure good points in every category laid down by the cultural committee to emerge triumphant is the sole motive of every participant. This musical night is organised every fortnight on a Saturday evening to break the shackles of a monotonous life. Different types of events are included in the musical nights like; classical dance, modern dance, song, drama, comedy and pyramids, As per the rules of the musical night all houses must accommodate the requisite number of participants proportionately from students community, teachers and support staff. All concerned has to actively participate and perform that would entitle them to get marks. Events include both solo and group performances. Indirectly it gives vent to the hidden talent of students, teachers and non-teaching staff and the kids of the staff, who display their talent in the open air stage of our institute. The musical night is witnessed by all the students and staff, which continues up to 7.30 pm. There is a jury comprising five staff, who watches the musical night programs with all diligence and award marks to different segments as per the evaluation criteria. Like this all houses complete their performances. On the basis of their performances, total marks secured by all houses are taken into account and the winner for the semester is announced after unprejudiced and impartial evaluation by the jury. The winner house receives a trophy from the Vice-chairman/ principal of the institute.

One of the main strengths of the house system is giving the students of all years the opportunity to mingle with teachers and other staff of the college to work together, creating truly a cohesive environment and ensuring that age is not a barrier to friendship and collaboration. As rightly said by David Tongue, “Camaraderie and solidarity is the main benefit of this type of “vertical interaction” of the house system, where the young look up to the elder and the elder look out for the support of the younger.

Another objective of the house system is the promotion of student’s responsibilities giving students the chance to learn and develop leadership skills is an outstanding benefit. The students

learn the art of discipline; to accomplish the assigned work with diligence and sincerity. The house leaders hone their leadership skills in the role, managing not only their peers but also learning how to 'manage up' among the staff body. It also augments impressive time management and delegation skills. Above all traits of a true leader are cultivated and others also learn the nuances of team-man-ship.