DHARANIDHAR UNIVERSITY, KENDUJHAR

(Formerly D.D. Autonomous College, Estd. 1957)

MINUTES OF 1st SENATE MEETING HELD ON 22.09.2026 (Hybrid Mode)
AT 11:00 A.M IN THE SEMINAR HALL, SOUTH CAMPUS

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjaya Kumar Patro, Vice-Chancellor
   Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar – Chairperson
2. Dr. Hemanta Kumar Ghadei, Regional Director of Education, Balasore, - Member
3. Prof.(Dr.) Chinmayi Mohapatra, Dean & Principal - Member
   Dharanidhar Medical College & Hospital, Kendujhar
4. Shree Sangram Keshari Parida, OAS-A (A) JB, Representative Collector &
   District Magistrate of Kendujhar - Member
5. Dr. Prabhuprasad Das, Chairman, P.G. Council- Member
   Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar
6. Shree Prakash Chandra Behera,- Member
   HOD, Department of Geology
7. Shree Brahmananda Nayak, Principal - Member
   Mahapat Mahavidyalaya, Janghira, Kendujhar
8. Shree Ananta Naik, Honourable Member of Parliament to Lok Sabha, Kendujhar,
   Parliament Constituency - Member
9. Shree Subash Chandra Gagrai, Administrative Officer - Member
   Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar
10. Shree Manas Kumar Rout, Asst. Librarian - Member
    Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar
11. Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak, Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Member
    Centurion University, Bhubaneswar
12. Shree Batakrushna Dehury, IAS (Retired), Kendujhargarh - Member
13. Shree Prasanta Kumar Nanda, Lecture in Economics - Member
    C.S. College Champua
14. Shree Prafulla Kumar Panda, Reader in Chemistry - Member
    Anandapur College, Anandapur
15. Shree Sanjay Kumar Mahanta, Lecture in Mathematics -Member
    Barbil College, Barbil
16. Dr. Haraprasad Majhi, Asst. Prof. in English - Member
    Govt. Women's College, Kendujhar
17. Shree Jyotiranjan Jena, Asst. Prof. in Physics - Member
    Govt. Women's College, Kendujhar
18. Miss Smruti Sagarika Choudhury, BS(P)25-005 (Academics) – Member- (Online)
19. Miss Sarmistha Sahoo, PG-Zool-25-015 (Singer) – Member (Online)
20. Miss Jasmine Patra, (SC)-PG-Hist-25-017 – Member (Online)
21. BUO Shree Subrat Kumar Mahakud (NCC)-BC-23-143- Member (Online)
22. Padmashree Dr. Damayanti Beshra, former principal - Member
    MPC Autonomous College, Baripada
23. Prof. Saroj Sarangi, Principal - Member
    Govt. Engineering College Kendujhar

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24. Dr. Banabihari Mishra, Former Associate Professor in Geology erstwhile Dharanidhar Autonomous College, Kendujhar - Member
25. Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor- Member (Online) Viswakarma Skill University, Hariana
26. Miss Prativa Prusty, Registrar, Dharanidhar Univesity- Member Secretary and Convenor.

MEMBER ABSENT/VACANT

1. The Secretary to Government Higher Education Department – Ex-Officio-Member
2. Dr. Dharanidhar Nanda, OAS(SAG) Additional Secretary to Govt., Dept. of Higher Education- Ex-Officio Member
3. The Director of Higher Education, Bhubaneswar. - Ex-Officio Member
4. The Director of Medical Education and Training, Bhubaneswar- Ex-Officio Member
5. The Director of Technical Education and Training, Odisha or his representative- Ex-Officio Member
6. Prof. Manas Ranjan Kabat, Principal, Institute of Management and Information Technology, Cuttack - Ex-Officio Member
7. The Chairperson, Odisha State Higher Education Councillor any member duly authorised by him - Ex-Officio Member
8. Advocate – General, Odisha or his representative – Ex-Officio Member
9. Dr. Subhasis Das, Director, Ardent Steel, Kendujhar – Member
10. Dr. S.K Biswal, Former Chief Scientist CSIR IMMT and Director, Tirupati Grapherse Mintech Research Centre, Bhubaneswar -Member
11. Shree Satya Prakash Panda, Member Executive Council, IIT, Bhubaneswar – Member
12. Dr. Ajit Kumar Baral, Asst. Prof. in Commerce, Govt. Women's College, Kendujhar – Member
13. Shree Basant Kumar Mishra, Former Senior Vice-President and Unit CEO Tech Mahindra and Co-founder of Crest XO -Member
14. Dr. Bhagabata Chandra Sahoo (Gynaecologist) USA-Member
15. Four Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly to be nominated by the Hon'ble Speaker
16. President and Secretary of Student Union of the University
17. Two Senior Teachers of affiliated Non-Government Aided College per district, to be nominated by the Government.
18. One Alumni of this University to be nominated by the Government.
19. The President or Secretary of the oldest registered alumni association of the University.
20. One member from Industries to be nominated by the Syndicate.

The Registrar, Prativa Prusty, welcomed all the members to the meeting. Thereafter, the members introduced themselves. The Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Kendujhar, Shri Anant Nayak, who is also a member of the Senate, graced the meeting with his presence. He actively participated in the deliberations and shared his valuable observations and suggestions on various matters discussed during the meeting.

Senate-2026-01.01 To report on University development plan to transform into a multidisciplinary education and research of the University.

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Resolution: Resolved that the Senate of Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar, having considered the Vision Plan entitled "Transforming into a Multi-Disciplinary Education & Research University" as placed before it by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, unanimously appreciates and records its endorsement of the broad vision and strategic direction proposed for the transformation and progressive development of the University. The Senate appreciated the proposed multidisciplinary academic expansion, strengthening of research and innovation, establishment of Centres of Excellence, development of Schools of Study, and creation of appropriate academic and research infrastructure, in alignment with the objectives of NEP 2020 and the educational, ecological, industrial, tribal and cultural needs of northern Odisha. The Senate noted that the proposed academic restructuring envisages 15 Schools of Study, under which 36 new Undergraduate programmes, 54 new Postgraduate programmes and 15 new Diploma/Certificate programmes are proposed.

The Senate further noted with appreciation the submission made by Padmashree Dr. Damayanti Beshra regarding consideration of B.Ed./M.Ed. programmes with specialization/focus in Linguistics. The Senate recognized the academic relevance of the proposal, particularly in the context of multilingualism, tribal languages, language documentation, preservation of indigenous linguistic heritage and teacher education. The Senate resolved that the proposal may be examined by the competent academic bodies of the University, including the concerned Board(s) of Studies and Academic Council, with due consideration to the applicable statutory provisions, regulatory norms, academic requirements and feasibility, and thereafter be placed before the competent authority for appropriate consideration and decision.

Senate-2026-01.02 To consider the Annual Report (2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, Annual Account Statement (2024-25 and 2025-26) and Audit of the University.

Resolution: Resolved that the Senate of Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar, having considered and taken note of the Annual Report of the University for the academic sessions 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26, as read out before the Senate at its first meeting, appreciates the comprehensive account presented therein of the University's governance and administration, academic structures, research and development activities, campus resources, the functioning of its 19 academic departments, and various student-oriented activities and support systems, including NSS, NCC, Youth Red Cross, Training and Placement, Indian Knowledge System Cell, Shaktishree Empowerment Cell, scholarships and awards. The Senate also appreciated that the Report provides a detailed account of the University's extracurricular, cultural and institutional-development activities and the achievements and laurels earned by the University, faculty members and students. The Senate particularly noted the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjaya Kumar Patro, being placed among the top 5% of scientists globally by SciRank; award of MRIP projects by OSHEC to two faculty members; upgradation of e-learning resources; preparation of the Master Plan and sanction of funds for infrastructure development; representation at the State-level Innovation and Startup Competition; execution of MoUs with four major organisations;

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successful campus placement drives; conduct of the five-day Odisha Inter-University Competition in Games and Sports; students' achievements in literary, cultural and other competitions, including Odia Paksha Palan; successful graduation of students; and observance of days of cultural, national and international significance. The Senate further noted the substantial increase and continued engagement in student development and extension activities, with 116 activities in 2023–24, 204 activities in 2024–25 and 179 activities in 2025–26 across NCC, NSS, Youth Red Cross and other Departments/Units. The Senate placed on record its appreciation of the concerted efforts of the University administration, faculty members, staff and students in achieving these accomplishments.

The Comptroller of Finance, Dharanidhar University, Kendujhar, informed the House that the District Local Fund Audit, Kendujhar, had conducted an audit of the accounts of the University for the financial years 2022–23 and 2023–24 during the period from 02.05.2026 to 15.07.2026. He further informed the House that the Final Audit Report is yet to be communicated to the University by the District Local Fund Audit, Kendujhar. The Comptroller of Finance also apprised the House that the University had engaged a Chartered Accountant (CA) firm to undertake the internal audit of the University's accounts, and that the internal audit process is presently in progress. He further placed before the House the annual financial statements/accounts for the full financial year 2024–25 and the half-yearly financial statements/accounts for the financial year 2025–26 for information and consideration of the House.

Senate-2026-01.03 To report on Academic activities and different programmes of this University.

Resolution: The Vice-Chancellor apprised the members of the various academic, research, innovation, skilling, outreach and institutional development initiatives undertaken and proposed by the University. The members appreciated the initiatives and expressed their support for further strengthening such programmes. The following major initiatives were reported:

1. **Biodiversity Research Park and Sustainable Learning Complex:** The Vice-Chancellor informed the House regarding the proposal submitted to the Department of Higher Education for development of a **Biodiversity Research Park** with a focus on agro-based food processing, agro-biotechnology and a Sustainable Learning Complex for skill development, applied research, experiential learning, entrepreneurship and co-incubation, sustainable farming and environmental restoration. The proposal has been conceptualized by Dharanidhar University following an exposure visit to Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Bhubaneswar, during which various skill-oriented and experiential learning models were observed. Accordingly, the University will take necessary steps to establish an academic collaboration with CUTM through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions for promoting skill development, experiential learning and related initiatives.
2. The proposal also envisages Centres of Excellence/Laboratories in the following areas:
    - **Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology & Bioinformatics:** NTFP-based bio-products, medicinal plants, genomics and bioinformatics;

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- **Climate Technology & Environmental Sustainability:** mining-environment monitoring, climate analytics, ESG and environmental remediation; and
- **Precision Agriculture & Agritech:** soil rehabilitation, drones, IoT, satellite imagery and AI-enabled crop advisory services.

3. **District-wide Youth Employability, Digital Literacy & Industry Readiness Survey:** The House was informed about the proposed district-wide survey to be undertaken with the support of **Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC)** to assess the employability, digital literacy, aspirations, skills and industry-readiness of youth in the district. It was observed that the existing information is fragmented, institution-specific and generated at different points of time. The proposed survey would establish a contemporary and comprehensive baseline of youth capabilities and employability preparedness and would facilitate evidence-based planning of academic, skilling and employment-oriented interventions.
4. **Kendujhar Higher Education Cluster (KHEC):** The Vice-Chancellor reported the proposed framework for establishing the **Kendujhar Higher Education Cluster**, linking Dharanidhar University (DDU), Government College of Engineering, Kendujhar (GCEK), Government Medical College & Hospital, Kendujhar (GMCH) and the Law College, with the objective of facilitating access to selected courses, faculty expertise, laboratories, research facilities, academic resources and collaborative learning opportunities across institutions, in consonance with the provisions and spirit of **NEP 2020.** The members appreciated the initiative and suggested that the **District Collector, Kendujhar, may be requested to convene a coordination meeting** of the participating institutions for effective implementation of the proposed cluster.
5. **Pre-placement Training and Placement:** The House was apprised of the pre-placement training activities conducted by the University and the placement statistics achieved during the relevant period. The members appreciated the efforts towards improving students' employability and industry readiness.
6. **Academic Collaboration and Memoranda of Understanding:** The House discussed the proposed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tribal Research & Knowledge Centre (TRKC)** for academic collaboration and joint curriculum development in **Tribal/Janjatiya Studies and allied areas.** The Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Kendujhar, **Shri Anant Nayak**, extended his support and highlighted the need and significance of promoting academic and research activities relating to tribal knowledge, culture and heritage. The House was also apprised of the proposed **MoU with the International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), Bharat Foundation**, for academic collaboration in the areas of **Ancient Global Traditions, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Industrial Eco-Reclamation.**
7. **Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development:** The Vice-Chancellor informed the House that development of the University's **Incubation Centre** is in progress to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and co-incubation activities. It was also reported that the University has completed the registration of a **Section 8 Company, namely "DDU Pragati Sansthan"**, to facilitate and support developmental, innovation and incubation-related activities. A proposal has also been submitted to the **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** seeking financial support for promotion and implementation of various activities.

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8. **Bio-Cultural Mapping and Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems:** The ongoing research project entitled "*Bio-Cultural Mapping and Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Kendujhar: Ethnobotany, Agro-Ecology & Linguistic Heritage of Different Tribal Communities*" was reported to the House. The initiative aims to systematically document and preserve indigenous knowledge, traditional practices, biodiversity-related knowledge and linguistic heritage of the tribal communities of the district.
9. **Skilling Initiatives:** The House was apprised of the proposed and ongoing **skilling activities under different academic departments**, aimed at enhancing the employability, entrepreneurship potential and practical competencies of students in alignment with emerging sectoral requirements.
10. **Handbook on Government Schemes:** The Vice-Chancellor informed the House about the preparation of a comprehensive handbook about "*145 Government Schemes for Educational Institution-Led Research, Outreach, Skilling and Community Development*" The initiative was appreciated by the members, and the appreciation and encouragement extended by the **Hon'ble Chancellor** were also placed on record.
11. **District-level MSME–Academia–NGO Conference/Workshop:** The House was informed about the proposal to organize a **District-level Conference/Workshop on MSME–Academia–NGO Partnership** for sharing ideas, showcasing innovations and best practices, deliberating upon challenges and exploring opportunities for collaborative initiatives. The programme would also include exhibitions and demonstrations of innovative practices and products.

The Vice-Chancellor also apprised the House of the Ph.D. Rules and the status of Ph.D. admissions in the University. The members noted the progress and appreciated the initiatives taken towards strengthening the University's research ecosystem and promoting quality doctoral education. After detailed deliberation, the House appreciated the above initiatives and programmes and expressed its support for their systematic implementation, consolidation and further expansion. The House emphasized the need for strengthening inter-institutional collaboration, industry-academia linkages, research and innovation, tribal and indigenous knowledge studies, skill development, particularly in areas such as logistics and supply-chain management relevant to the mining-intensive region, entrepreneurship, and community-oriented programmes. The House further suggested that the University should actively pursue collaboration and support from the industries operating in and around the district, including major industrial groups such as Rungta and Tata, for financial assistance, infrastructure development, research support, industry-linked training, internships, skill development, placement and other mutually beneficial academic and developmental activities. It was also suggested that the University may pursue appropriate proposals with the **OMBADC** for financial and technical assistance towards infrastructure development and other projects aligned with the educational, research, skilling and community-development objectives of the University.

Sent-2026-01.04 One member of the Non-Teaching staff to be nominated by the Senate to the Syndicate of the University.

Resolution: The Senate has nominated *Smt. Supriya Parida* as the member of Syndicate of this University.

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Senate-2026-01.05 Table Agenda Items for consideration

Resolution: The Senate considered various proposals and suggestions placed as Table Agenda Items by its members for consideration and appropriate action by the University

1. Proposal for Academic and Research Collaboration

Dr. Ajay Kumar Nayak, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Centurion University, Bhubaneswar and Member of the Senate, placed a proposal for entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Odisha, for undertaking collaborative research and related academic activities at the existing OUAT campus at Judia, Kendujhar.

The Senate appreciated the proposal and observed that such collaboration could provide valuable opportunities for field-based research, interdisciplinary studies, innovation, technology transfer and knowledge exchange, particularly in areas relating to agriculture, biodiversity, environment and the developmental needs of Kendujhar district. The Senate resolved that the proposal may be examined by the competent authorities/academic bodies of the University and, subject to applicable statutory provisions and feasibility, appropriate action may be taken for initiating the proposed collaboration.

2. Proposals for Student Enrichment, Academic Outreach and Community Engagement

Sri Batakrushna Dehury, Retd. I.A.S. and Member of the Senate, placed the following proposals before the House:

i. To organise periodic meetings, lectures, symposia, special academic sessions, convocations and other suitable events by inviting eminent academicians, literary personalities, subject experts, professionals, celebrities and other persons of eminence to interact with students and deliver inspirational and knowledge-oriented lectures, with a view to motivating students and broadening their intellectual, social and professional outlook beyond the regular academic curriculum.

ii. To encourage students, faculty members and other members of the University community to publish periodicals, journals, newsletters and other scholarly and creative publications highlighting innovation, academic excellence, sports, science, literature, institutional achievements and success stories of the University, its students and teachers. The Senate also considered that outstanding writers and/or exemplary works may be suitably recognised and felicitated during the Annual Day or other appropriate University functions.

iii. To organise suitable off-campus exposure visits and community-service programmes for students, particularly during vacations/holidays, enabling them to participate in village and community-development activities through volunteership, NSS, NCC and other University initiatives. Such programmes may be properly documented with a view to promoting leadership qualities, social responsibility, community awareness, teamwork and a spirit of service among students.

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The Senate appreciated the above suggestions and observed that such initiatives would contribute to the holistic development of students and strengthen the University's academic, cultural, social and community-oriented activities. The Senate resolved that the proposals may be examined by the concerned authorities/units of the University and suitable programmes may be formulated and implemented, subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

3. Suggestions relating to Environment, Sustainability and Institutional Values

Dr. Banabihar Mishra, Member of the Senate, placed several suggestions for consideration as possible institutional messages/slogans relating to environmental conservation, scientific temper, excellence and responsible citizenship, namely:

1. "Harness and Conserve Water and Energy for a Better Future."
2. "Explore Our Earth and Other Planets."
3. "Nurture Nature for the Future—Shaping Our Future Together."
4. "Let Us Save Our Mother Earth's Environment to Save Ourselves."
5. "Focus to Excel—Dedicated to Selfless Service."
6. "Every Climate Action, No Matter How Small, Contributes to the Larger Goal."

The Senate appreciated the suggestions and noted that the proposed messages reflect the University's commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation of natural resources, scientific curiosity, climate responsibility, excellence and selfless service. The Senate resolved that these suggestions may be examined by the appropriate authority for their suitable incorporation in the University's awareness programmes, environmental initiatives, institutional displays, publications and other appropriate platforms.

4. Strengthening of the University and Functional Arrangement of the Existing Programmes

The Senate also considered, as a Table Agenda Item, the matter relating to the separation of the D.D. College from Dharanidhar University. The Senate desired that the advisors proposed for the preparation of the University Development Plan, as approved by the 3rd Syndicate, be requested to review the matter concerning the separation of D.D. College from Dharanidhar University, keeping in view the larger interests of Kendujhar.

After detailed deliberation, the members of the Senate unanimously agreed that the immediate priority should be to strengthen and consolidate Dharanidhar University as a multidisciplinary Education and Research University by developing and effectively implementing the proposed new academic programmes under the various proposed Schools of Study at the South Campus.

The Senate further observed that the existing academic programmes may continue to function from the North Campus as a constituent college/unit of Dharanidhar University, thereby ensuring continuity and stability of the

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existing academic programmes while enabling the South Campus to progressively emerge as the principal centre for the University's proposed new multidisciplinary programmes, Schools of Study, Centres of Excellence, research, innovation and other developmental initiatives.

The Senate was of the considered view that such an arrangement would facilitate focused development of the South Campus, systematic expansion of new academic programmes, optimal utilisation of existing infrastructure and resources at the North Campus, and a clear academic and functional progression of the University towards its envisioned multidisciplinary Education and Research University status.

Accordingly, the Senate unanimously resolved that efforts should be concentrated on strengthening the proposed new programmes under the various Schools of Study at the South Campus, while continuing the existing programmes at the North Campus as a constituent college/unit of the University, subject to the applicable statutory provisions and approval of the competent authorities wherever required.

The Senate further desired that the University may undertake necessary academic, administrative and infrastructural planning in this regard and place specific proposals before the competent statutory bodies for consideration and approval, wherever necessary.

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Registrar
Dharnidhar University, Kendujhar

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Vice-Chancellor
Dharnidhar University, Kendujhar