

# DIAMOND HARBOUR WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

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Diamond Harbour Women's University came into existence in 2013. It was established under West Bengal Act XXXVII of 2012 on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013. It is the first University in this region and has been envisaged in answer to the long standing requirement of the girl-student of this region and beyond for greater scope in the search for attainment of selfhood. This is a region with strong links to the metropolis Kolkata. It is well connected by road and rail and is the gateway to the Sunderbans, an eco-region of recognized significance. It marks the confluence of the mighty river Hooghly (a tributary of the Ganga) with the Bay of Bengal. In January the Gangasagar Mela attracts thousands of pilgrims across the country. The region remains rural, though fishery is an important economic activity, increasingly acquiring industrial dimensions. In recent years, migration, both short and long term has become an important demographic feature of the region. The Diamond Harbour Road connecting south-west Kolkata to Diamond Harbour has emerged as an education hub. Beginning with the campus of the Indian Institute of Management, Joka, Calcutta there are other major management institutes such as Calcutta Business School, Neotia Institute of Technology, Management and Science, etc. There are also well known schools such as Vivekananda Mission, K.E.Carmel School, Ramakrishna Mission Siksha Mandir, etc. The region has a strong tradition in undergraduate education and there are a number of flourishing undergraduate colleges in and around the area.

The University has already started functioning from the academic year 2014-15 with the introduction of 2- year, 4- semester PG courses in six subjects; Bengali, English, History, Political Science, Education and Women's Studies. Classes are presently being held in a three storied dedicated academic building within the campus of the Fakir Chand College located close to the Diamond Harbour Railway Station. From the coming academic session ie AY 2015-16 the University proposes to introduce few more post graduate courses including M.Sc courses in science. Later in due course the University will move to its own campus near Sarisha crossing in Diamond Harbour. The present Vice Chancellor, Prof. Anuradha Mukhopadhyay joined her duties in early 2015. The University hopes to address both research and teaching in the context of its location as well as globally. The objective is to function efficiently and effectively as a University providing teaching, training and research in various branches of learning/courses of study so as to promote advancement and dissemination of knowledge to meet the growing needs of the society. As a women's university, it will address in particular questions of livelihood and security for women. It will not only provide opportunities for women in the area to access new opportunities but will also hope to draw women from other parts of the country into interaction with a rather unique corner of this diverse land.