

An Overview of Gaudiya Mission

Gaudiya Math and Mission, the philanthropic and spiritual organisation, was established in the year 1918, with the efforts of Srimad Bhakti-Siddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Prabhupad (1874-1937), the great visionary aspiring in preserving cultural and spiritual heritage of India. Later, the organisation was registered in the year 1940, under the **Societies Registration Act 1860**, and was named as **Gaudiya Mission** which operates from its head office at Bagbazar, Kolkata, West Bengal. Presently Gaudiya Mission has around 57 branches in India and abroad. Gaudiya Mission is relentlessly striving to promote the **philosophy of equity, universal brotherhood and establishment of a peaceful global society**, as preached and practised by Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and continued to work with the aim of reaching out to the people for fulfilment of their aspiration, through spread of **education, medical relief to the poor and the disadvantaged population and realization of other objectives of general public utility**.

Gaudiya Mission is also engaged in academic, philanthropic, and social activities. Its major academic activities include, running of educational centres and libraries, **holding of seminars and conferences, publication of books and magazines as well as preservation of old manuscripts in Sanskrit and Bengali**.

The Mission, as a part of its philanthropic and social activities, runs leprosy Clinic-cum- rehabilitation Centres, old age homes and charitable dispensaries and hospitals at various places. It also holds medical camps, provides free food to the poor, undertakes free distribution of cloths among them and extends a helping hand to the victims of natural calamities and accidents

GAUDIYA MISSION Bagbazar and its different branch Centres, spread across the country and abroad, are involved in various social activities, which include:

- **Sanskrit Learning Centre:** A Sanskrit learning centre has been setup at the Gaudiya Mission premises where approved modular courses in Sanskrit are imparted through the Professors of Sanskrit of the local colleges and universities for the interested learners of the language.
- **Library service:** Free library service is provided for the students of poor and backward community of the locality and also for general public residing near Bagbazar Mission and other branches of the Mission across India.
- **Relief work:** At the time of flood and other natural calamity, Gaudiya Mission participates in relief work, including free distribution of cooked food, clothing and medicine for the victims.
- **Health care:** The Mission provides Ambulance services to the patients of the local areas and holds regular health camps and preventive counseling programmes in several rural areas of West Bengal.
- **Leprosy Treatment and Rehabilitation programme:** The Mission runs two Leprosy Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in Puri, Orissa.
- **Old-Age Home:** Currently Gaudiya Mission runs Old-Age Homes in Kolkata, Varanasi, Nabadwip and Radhkunda in Mathura.
- **Health Centre:** The Mission runs 16 (sixteen) charitable medical centres and health care Units in different branches under the Mission across the country where both Homeopathy & Allopathic treatments are available free of cost.
- **Free Medical Camps :** The Mission arranges free medical camps at the remotest areas of the country and provides medical assistance to the poor with the help of experienced doctors and distributes medicines free of cost.
- **Free food to the poor :** Throughout the year free Mahaprasadam is distributed to the poor from different branches of the Mission and also by organising camps at different areas occasionally.
- **Free distribution of clothes :** Distribution of clothes among the poorest section of the society at different areas of the country is also one of the social activities.

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- **Aid to victims of natural calamities** : Aid to victims of natural calamities are the regular activities of the Mission. The Mission provided medical care, food and shelter to the COVID-19 patients during the nationwide lockdown in selected centres.
- **Vocational Training** : The Mission also arranges vocational training programme like incense stick packing and floral arrangement for the benefit of poor women with the sole aim to uplift their living standard in the society.
- **Rural development initiative** : Gaudiya Mission has set up bio-gas plants for meeting the cooking energy needs in rural areas. By product of such plants are also being used as organic manure for cultivation in those centres.

The Philosophy and Teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is an eternal possession of the mankind and integral part of Indian culture.

Gaudiya Mission, an overview; major objectives and Organisational structure:

Gaudiya Math and Mission, established in the year 1918 by His Divine Grace Srimad Bhakti-siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad, is a charitable and philanthropic organization engaged in spreading the message of peace, harmony and universal brotherhood, as envisaged, promoted and practised by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and His close Associates.

While tracing the legacy of this great organisation, it can be found that **Visva Vaishnava Rajsabha**, an Association of the followers of Vaishnavism, as propounded by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, was initially established in the 16th Century AD by **Srila Jiva Goswami**, one of the 6 Goswamis of Vrindavan and the prominent Associate of **Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu**. **Srila Rup Goswami** was the 1st President or “Patraraja” of this Association.

Srimad Bhakti Vinode Thakura (1838–1914), the preceptor of modern day Gaudiya Vaishnavism, rejuvenated **Visva Vaishnava Rajsabha** to spread the movement of preaching the tenets of Vaisnavism in an effective manner and named it as **Namhatta**.



Head Office of Gaudiya Mission

In November 1918, **Srimad Bhakti-Sidhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad**, the spiritual heir of Srimad Bhakti Vinode Thakura, established a prototype of **Namhatta** at No.1 Ultadingi Junction Road, Kolkata and named it as **Bhakti Vinode Ashana**. He dedicated this center to spread the teachings of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and bring about holistic welfare of the mankind. Subsequently, in the year 1920 **Bhakti Vinode Ashana** was named as **Sri Gaudiya Math** by Srila Prabhupad.

Today millions of people across the globe are being enlightened to the path of perfect truth by this institution, presently recognised as Gaudiya Mission, registered in the year 1940 under the **Societies Registration Act. 1860** with its Headquarters at **16A, Kali Prasad Chakraborty St. Kolkata-700 003**.

Head Office of Gaudiya Mission :

Gaudiya Mission with its 57 branches in India and abroad, is serving the people of the society saving them from all types of miseries and is steadily winning recognition throughout the world for its

Vaishnava philosophy—the philosophy which upholds the view of a social, disciplined and loving, classless global society. Its view of equity and brotherhood has its sprouting sources from the ancient Indian Vaishnava philosophy. **Love for all being is the key word of Vaishnavism.**

Aims & Objectives of the Organization :

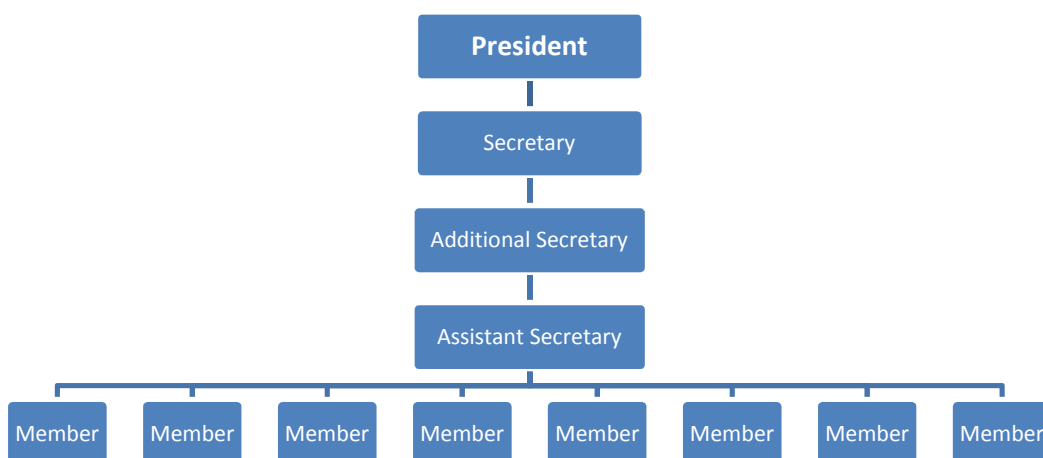
- To spread the philosophy of Vaishnavism as preached and practiced by Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and reach out to the people with education, medical relief and other welfare services, without any discrimination, particularly for the underprivileged sections of the society.
- To spread the doctrines and philosophy enunciated in Vaishnava cult as preached and practiced by Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu for the uplift, development and fulfillment of the aspiration of the mankind at large through the:
 - i) Spread of education.
 - ii) Medical relief.
 - iii) Relief of the poor.
 - iv) Advancement of any other objects of general public utility, not involving the carrying on of any activity for profit.

Organizational Structure and Management :

Gaudiya Mission has a well-defined organizational structure to spread the message of universal love and brotherhood propounded by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and carry out other noble activities.

- i) In accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Rules, a governing body has been formed, which consists of 12 members with President at the top. The detailed structure is given below.
- ii) The Mission has also a council body which consists of members of the Governing Body, Superintendents or members-in-charge of all Maths and Institutions, Editors of Journals of the Society, Heads of preaching parties, six members elected by the disciples from among themselves and six special members nominated by the Acharya.
- iii) An advisory board has also been set up to provide critical input for maintenance of the Museum.

Governing body structure:



Educational Activities of Gaudiya Mission

To improve the spiritual and moral condition of Mankind as a social being, Gaudiya Mission engaged in instilling human values, conducting seminars, workshops, exhibitions and similar events at different places across the country and abroad.

Education in its true sense imparted by the Mission to the society for moral development. Various classes are taken by the scholars to convey the real knowledge to the young and old. The Gaudiya Mission Grantha-Mandira (libraries) are enriched with books on Philosophy and Literature for the use of the common people.

The Gaudiya Mission Para-Vidyapeeth Research Institute :

Gaudiya Mission Para-Vidyapeeth, recognised by Government of India as an Educational Institution, as declared in the Govt. Gazette in 1984, was established in 1935 by Srila Bhakti-Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad, the founder Acharya of Gaudiya Mission. Para- Vidyapeeth conveys the best and the highest of all education—the education of self-realization along with 'Love for All' at the cost of egoistic attitudes, following the foot-steps of Sri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to one and all without any discrimination.

Symposia, scripture classes, and other religious and cultural programme are some of the scheduled of the Institution for holistic development and welfare of human society.

Attached to this institution, is library with a rich collection of scriptures and books on Indian Philosophy and Gaudiya Vaishnavism as well as literatures in Sanskrit, Bengali, English and Hindi languages. Also some rarest scriptures and books are the assets of the library. There are arrangements for both reading room and lending facilities on membership.

Recently, in 2014, Gaudiya Mission Para-Vidyapeeth Research Institute was introduced to offer new courses for spread of learning Gaudiya Vaishnava culture and its humanitarian outlook to the people without any restriction. Since study of the same requires knowledge of Sanskrit and Darshana, the curriculum include straining in Sanskrit Language and textual studies in Indian Philosophy largely. It is with the same vision that Courses on Gaudiya Nritya, Mridanga Vadana and Kritana are being introduced under this Institute.

Major Activities of Gaudiya Mission Para-Vidyapeeth Research Institute :

- **Seminars & Conferences** : Responding to the need of the time, arrangements for holding seminars are very often made by Gaudiya Mission at the grass root level of the society to develop the moral life of its people.
- **Workshops on** : (i) Manuscriptology & Paleography (ii) Philosophical Language
Basic Level Workshop on Manuscriptology & Palaeography : The Mission conducts Basic Level Courses on Manuscriptology and Palaeography of 21 days duration. Basic Level courses are held in collaboration with an MRC or other institutions of repute. The course familiarizes students with local script prevalent in their area as well as ancient scripts like Brahmi, Sharada, Modi, Grantha, Tigalari etc. in which a number of manuscripts are found all over the country. In addition, the course covers aspects of cataloguing, history of writing, basic conservation and storage of manuscripts and use of information technology in manuscript preservation and research. The faculty consists of the senior scholars in the country representing different disciplines in Manuscriptology and Palaeography.
- **Educational Centres and Libraries** : In different branches of the Mission, educational centres are run and many of the centres are having well-equipped libraries for the benefit of the students as well as general readers.
- **Sanskrit Learning Centre**: A Sanskrit learning centre has been setup at the Gaudiya Mission premises where approved modular courses in Sanskrit are imparted through the Professors of Sanskrit of the local colleges and universities for the interested learners of the language.

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- **Publication of Books and Magazines** : Books of high literary value are published from Gaudiya Mission. Monthly and quarterly Magazines in different languages are also published by the Mission.
- **School Project** : The Mission has embarked upon a CBSE affiliated (applied) English Medium School at Nabadwip in 2018. Regular School is going on from our Nabadwip Math building temporarily. A grand building is coming up with the generous donation of benevolent people of the society to fulfil the aspiration of the rural students.

International and National Seminars and Conferences:

Responding to the need of the society at large, National and International seminars are organised by Gaudiya Mission from time to time to mark its different landmark occasions. **Some such noteworthy educative programmes organised in last few years, are enumerated below:**

- National Conference on 'Contribution of Srīman Mahāprabhu to Indian Society & Culture', 2014.
- National Conference on 'Relevance of Religious Teachings of Srīman Mahāprabhu in Modern Era', 2015.
- National workshop on 'Manuscriptology & Paleography' in collaboration with school of Vedic studies, RBU for 21 days, 2015.
- National Conference on 'Relevance of Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu's Teachings', 2016.
- National Level workshop on 'Manuscriptology and Paleography' in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts' and Gaudiya Mission Para-vidyapeeth Research Institute, Duration-21 Days, 2016.
- National Conference on 'Humanism in Srī Chaitanya's Philosophy', Duration 2 Days, 2017. With a view to Spreading Vaishnava Culture and its humanitarian outlook. Gaudiya Mission introduced in this year 2014, four distinct courses for the students and the general learners, e.g.
 - a. Bhakti Shastri Course.
 - b. Sampradaya- Vaibhava – Acharya Course.
 - c. Sanskrit Learning Course.
 - d. Music Course.
 - e. English learning course
- International Seminar on "Impact of the teachings of Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and some of his followers on the present society", held in Kolkata in March 2010 and in Delhi in November 2010.
- International Seminar on "Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and Universal Brotherhood", in Kolkata, February 2012.
- International Seminar on "Universal Brotherhood as propagated by Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu" in Mumbai, December, 2012.
- International Seminar on Contribution of Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu in the Present Society" in Cuttack, June, 2013.
- International Seminar on "Post Chaitanya Vaishnavism and Srīla Bhakti Vinode Thakur" held on Sept 14-18, 2013, in Kolkata. On his 175th Advent and 100 years of disappearance.
- National Seminar on "Socio-cultural contribution of Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu in Indian History", held in November, 28-29, 2015 on the occasion of 500th anniversary of Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu's, coming to Vrindavan.
- National Conference on "contribution of Srī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu to Indian Society and culture" held on March 9-10, 2015 in Kolkata on the occasion of Srī Chaitanya Janmotsav and Mela.
- National Conference on "Possibility of Parisuddhi (Purification) in the modern Society and Education" organized in Kolkata, February 17, 2017 on the Occasion of Srī Chaitanya Janmotsav and Mela, 2017.

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- National Seminar on “The ideals of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the present world,” held on 14th August, 2019 at Gaudiya Mission Bagbazar on the occasion of the inauguration of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Museum.
- National Conference on “Sri Chaitanya: influence on Society and Literature” held on 15th February 2020 on the occasion of Sri Chaitany Janmotsav and Mela. 2020.
- National Conference on “the pandemic and the philosophy of Mahaprabhu” held on 5th March, 2021 in Kolkata on the occasion of Sri Chaitany Janmotsav and Mela. 2021.
- National Conference on "the philosophy of Achinta Bheda-abhed", held on 6th March, 2021 in Kolkata on the occasion of Sri Chaitany Janmotsav and Mela, 2021.
- The Seminar on the launch of the book “The Parikrama of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu” held on 22nd April, 2021 in the auditorium of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Museum at Bagbazar, Kolkata. Hon’ble Cabinet Minister of India Sri Dharmendra Pradhan was the Chief Guest.
- International Seminar on the occasion of Sri Chaitanya Janmotsav & Mela held from 23rd January to 30th January, 2022 at Kolkata. “The contribution of the Vedic Literature in world welfare and Gour Padabali Literature” was the topic of the Seminar.
- The International Seminar on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad held from 19th to 21st February, 2022 at Puri. The Former President of India Sri Ramnath Kovind was the Chief Guest in this seminar.
- National Seminar on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Srila Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad at Balasore (Odisha) held on 3rd July, 2022. “The impact of Srila Prabhupad in modern society” was the topic of seminar.
- National Seminar on “The contribution of Srila Prabhupad in spreading vedic Philosophy” at Kurukshetra held from 24th to 26th August, 2022 on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Srila Prabhupad. The Chief Minister of Haryana Sri Manohar Lal Khattar and The Governor of Haryana Sri Bandaru Dattatraya were the Chief Guests on 25th & 26th August, 2022 on this occasion.
- National Seminar on “The contribution of Srila Prabhupad in spreading worldwide Hare Krishna Movement" held on 7th October, 2022 at Srirup Gaudiya Math, Prayagraj, U.P. The Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Sri Brajesh Pathak was the Chief Guest.
- National Seminar on "The contribution of Srila Prabhupad in preaching pure devotion” at Agartala (Rabindra Bhawan) held from 29th November to 1st December, 2022. The Chief Minister of Tripura Sri Manik Saha was the Chief Guest on this seminar.
- The International Seminar on "The contribution of Srila Prabhupad in the present society" held from 7th to 8th December, 2022 at Sonaram High School Ground, Guwahati, Assam. The Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himant Biswa Sarma was the Chief Guest.
- The International Seminar on "The contribution of Srila Prabhupad in preaching foreign countries” held on 14th December, 2022 at Dalgram (Bangladesh). The Society Welfare Minister of Bangladesh Imran Nurjaman Ahmed was the Chief Guest.
- The International Seminar “Importance of religion of service in modern age as propagated by Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu” held from 6th February to 12th February, 2023 in Kolkata on the occasion of Sri Chaitanya Janmotsav & Mela.
- The National Seminar on "The contribution of Srila Prabhupad in preaching Sanatan Dharma” held from 17th February to 18th February, 2023 at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas (WB). The Speaker of the Assembly of West Bengal Sri Biman Banerjee was the Chief Guest.