

When scientists seek a Philosopher: Acharya Prashant returns to IISc Bangalore

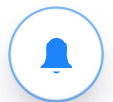
IISc is fundamentally a research institution. Its doctoral scholars and scientists question assumptions, demand evidence and subject ideas to relentless scrutiny.

Edited By : [Sreelekha Venugopal](#)

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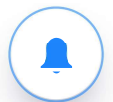
It is not often that a philosopher gets invited to address scientists. Rarer still is a second invitation within the same year. Yet, on December 13, Acharya Prashant found himself back at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, standing before a packed Satish Dhawan Auditorium. When he took the stage, the auditorium broke into sustained applause before he had spoken a single word.

This was his second session at IISc in 2025. The first, held in March, had confronted the foundations of identity, knowledge and suffering, contrasting Vedantic inquiry with neuroscience. Students had walked out not with neat answers but with deeper questions. The December invitation suggested that the discomfort of that first encounter had been valued, not resented.

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The return visit came after an extraordinary run through India's premier technical institutions. Between October and December, Acharya Prashant had addressed four IIT



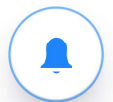
campuses in quick succession: IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras and IIT Bombay. The December IISc session brought the total to five engagements at India's most rigorous institutions within roughly ten weeks. No other philosopher in recent memory has commanded such repeated access to these campuses.

The pattern is telling. India's landscape of spiritual discourse is crowded with motivational speakers and lifestyle gurus. But when institutions like IISc and the IITs seek serious engagement with philosophy, the invitations hardly go to feel-good orators. They go to someone willing to challenge, unsettle and hold his ground before audiences trained to interrogate. The repeat invitations suggest that these institutions have found in Acharya Prashant an interlocutor who meets their standard of rigour, someone whose discourse can withstand the scrutiny of minds that do not settle for easy answers.

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IISc is fundamentally a research institution. Its doctoral scholars and scientists question assumptions, demand evidence and subject ideas to relentless scrutiny. A speaker who trades in vague inspirational rhetoric would not survive ten minutes here.

The December session reflected this character. The panel discussion probed the impulse behind scientific enquiry, the limits of science in addressing superstition, and the distinction between knowledge and wisdom. When the floor opened, students raised searching questions: What is the meaning of life after achieving everything you set out to



achieve? Can suffering ever truly end? Is artificial intelligence a threat? What separates mythology from history? Acharya Prashant's responses, direct and unhedged, drew repeated rounds of applause. His observation that "knowledge is additive, wisdom is demolition" prompted a particularly strong reaction.

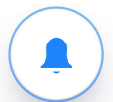
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A unique moment captured the session's flavour: when a question about societal laws demanded elaboration, he invited over thirty students near the stage to enact the point he was making. The auditorium came alive in a way that transformed the lecture hall into something closer to a live experiment.

The session extended past three hours. As it concluded, a long queue formed for book signings. The curiosity that had filled the Satish Dhawan Auditorium at the start remained palpable at the end.

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India's most analytically demanding institutions are making room for philosophical enquiry, and returning for more. The students driving this interest are not abandoning scientific thinking. They are recognising its boundaries. When philosophy is conducted with the honesty and clarity that scientific minds respect, it finds not just a receptive audience but a hungry one.



In a country where spiritual discourse often trades in easy comfort, these institutions have made a different choice. The two IISc invitations in 2025, following four IIT sessions, make that clear. As more premier institutions prepare to host him, Acharya Prashant's engagement with India's scientific community appears to be not a passing moment but the continuation of something larger.

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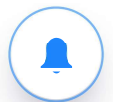
Videos from this session can be accessed on Acharya Prashant's official channels.

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