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Beyond Diwali bonuses: Acharya Prashant questions true meaning of goodness

Addressing a discussion on religious merit, he argued that seasonal generosity should not distract from examining how employees are treated throughout the year. “Even a virtuous act becomes sinful when it arises from a sinful centre,” he said.

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Photo:SNS

Diwali bonuses are welcomed by employees, particularly those on modest salaries. However, at his two-day Deepotsav gathering in Greater Noida on November 7 and 8, Acharya Prashant questioned whether festive payments could demonstrate genuine goodness when regular wages remained low.

Addressing a discussion on religious merit, he argued that seasonal generosity should not distract from examining how employees are treated throughout the year. “Even a virtuous act becomes sinful when it arises from a sinful centre,” he said.

Around 1,500 people attended the gathering at B.B. Lal Auditorium, while more than one lakh joined online each day, according to the PrashantAdvait Foundation.

The first day's discussion drew on Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 7, Verse 28, focusing on ending paap (sin) rather than a Menu ting punya (merit). Acharya Prashant explained that genuine goodness begins with removing self-deception, stating, "Truthfulness within leads to goodness outside."

The second session explored Verse 15.4 of the Ashtavakra Gita. He cautioned against turning spiritual concepts such as 'witness' and 'consciousness' into new identities, emphasising their purpose of challenging false identification.

The gathering also featured discussions on everyday behaviour, education and responsibility. Responding to a Class 8 student's concern about gossiping, he highlighted the importance of recognising choices before consequences arise.

He also discussed Lord Rama, Ravana, knowledge and accountability, explaining that greater knowledge and resources bring greater obligations.

An exhibition traced his journey through IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, his corporate career and the founding of the PrashantAdvait Foundation. His new book, For Whom?, was unveiled during the event.

The gathering concluded with a group photograph, leaving participants with a central question: whether their everyday actions reflect what they already understand to be right.

Acharya Prashant *Diwali Bonuses*

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