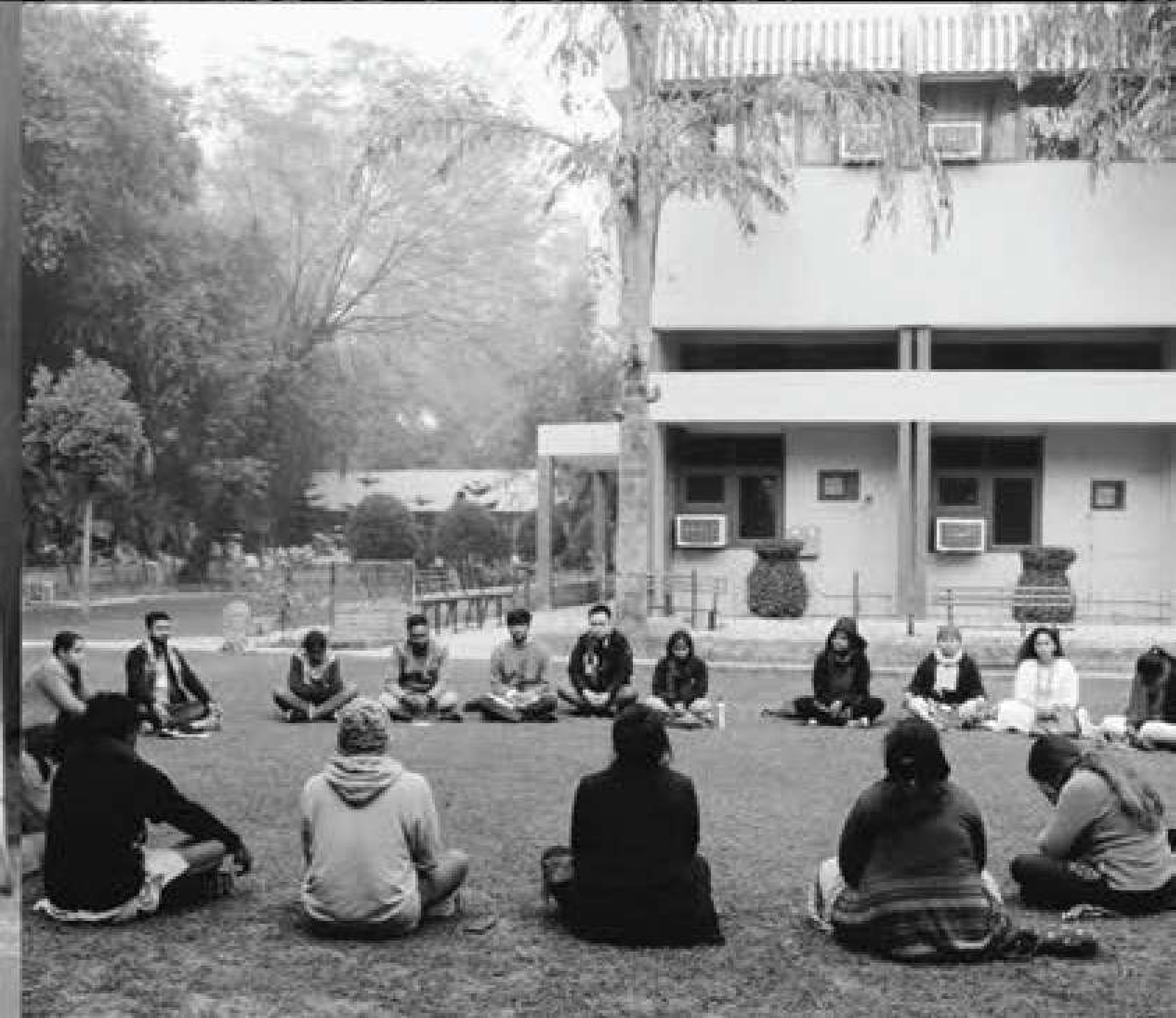





INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY
उत्कृष्ट भारत

Indian School of Democracy is a **non-partisan organization** that conducts **short term and long term programs** for aspiring, grassroots political leaders.

NURTURE | TRANSFORM | REPRESENT



FOUNDERS' NOTE

The moment the word India or **भारत** is spoken, there is something deep within us evoked. Images of a land we call our own, its ancestors, its reality and its future flash in front of us. Some kindle hope, some make us ache.

There is so much to be proud of, but there is also a lot more to work towards. Women and men who fought and led the freedom struggle gave us an India that was free from colonial control, but not free from inequality.

Indian democracy is not serving all citizens equally. We strongly believe that this needs to change and it is upon our generation to change it. We need to carve an India free from the shackles of poverty, violence and inequity. We need to make it a home that nurtures the potential of every citizen alike.

We believe this will happen when the people who lead us have both moral courage and imagination.

Indian School of Democracy envisions to redefine public leadership with a mission to nurture principled leaders for Indian politics. We envision that **by 2047, 25% elected representatives** in the Parliament, State assemblies, and local governments of India will be principled leaders working collaboratively to make democracy work for all citizens.

We are committed to be on this path, taking one step at a time. This vision is impossible to realize without the support of hundreds of people, who also **imagine an India, a भारत whose political leaders are servant leaders.** Let's make our democracy inclusive and make it work for all its citizens. Our work will not stop until **Sarvodaya**, upliftment for all, is achieved.

Welcome to this program, we invite you to join us on this journey and enrich it!

With gratitude,
Hemakshi and Prakhar
Co Founders, Indian School of Democracy

WHY POLITICS?

What does politics mean to you?

Does it evoke the image of a unified march of thousands proclaiming freedom?

Or does it evoke the image of an all white wearing, garlanded individual during election rallies?

Does it it evoke images of path-breaking decisions in the parliament that change the fate our people?

Or does it mean debates and shouting matches on TV?

During our independence movement, courageous and visionary leaders surrendered themselves selflessly in service of the nation to realize their idea of India. Today, our generation is struggling to find principled leaders. Motivated and talented young leaders often do not choose the path of public service.

Politics is and can be the most impactful lever of change for public service.

We need to rebuild a generation of inspired young leaders, to fight to change the status quo of politics today. To achieve the true potential of democracy, politics needs to be reimagined, with service of the people at the centre and Sarvodaya (upliftment of all) as the ultimate goal- a kind of politics worth committing one's life to...

“ On the 26th of January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality.

In politics we will be recognizing the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value.

In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value.

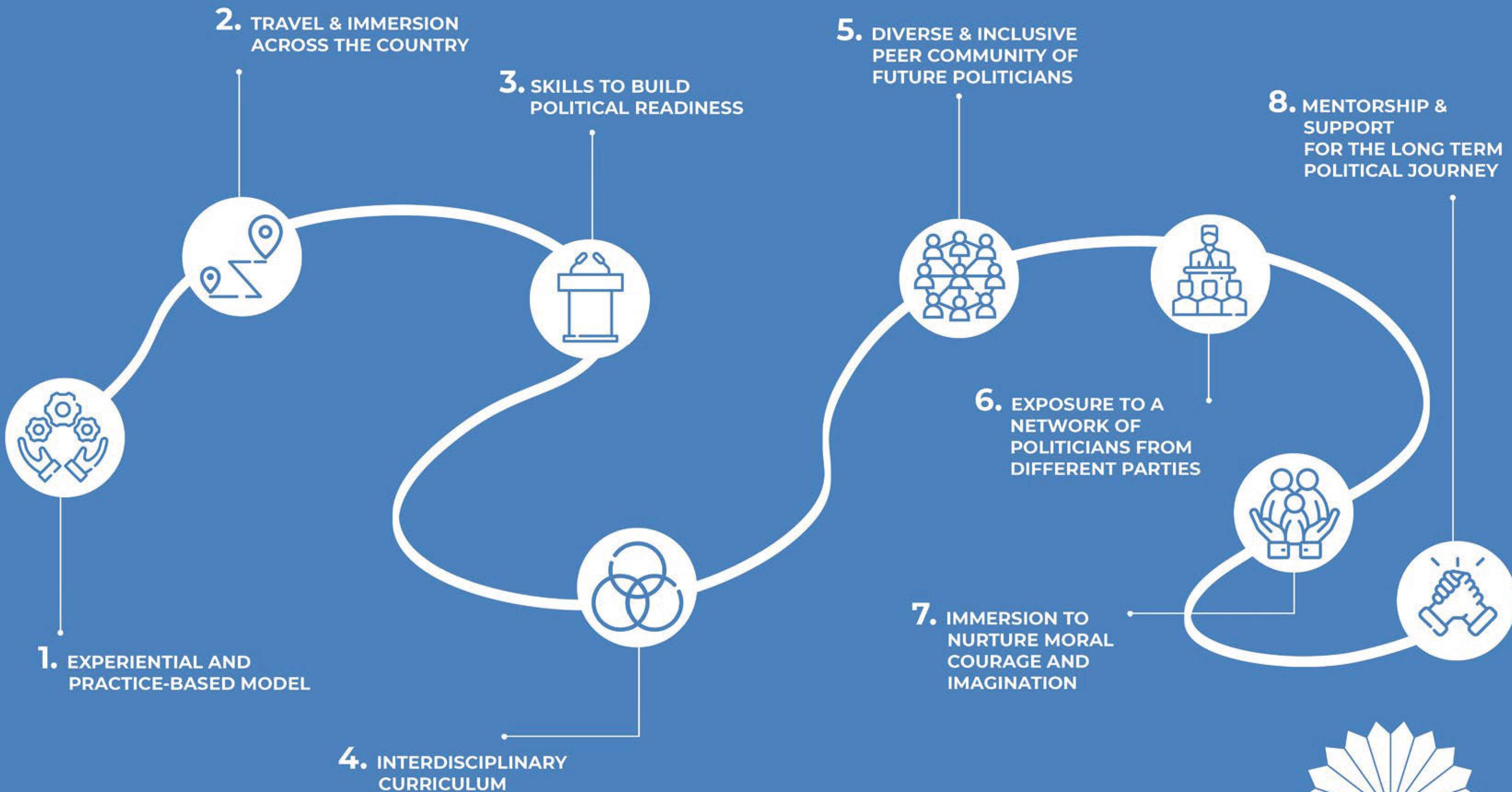
How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life?

...We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which this Assembly has so laboriously built up.”

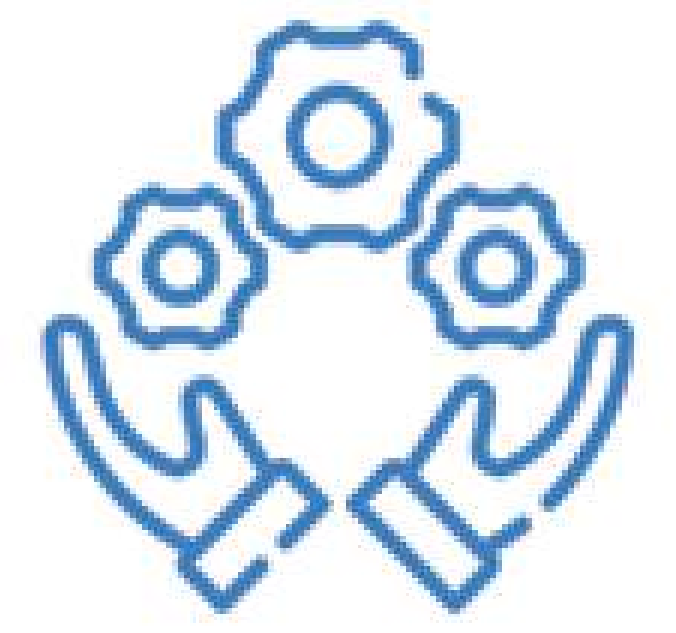
— Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

THE GOOD POLITICIAN

The **Good Politician** is a unique 9-month experiential program that invites 50 emerging grassroots leaders to embark on a political journey together to build skills, a community, and inner conviction to lead political change.

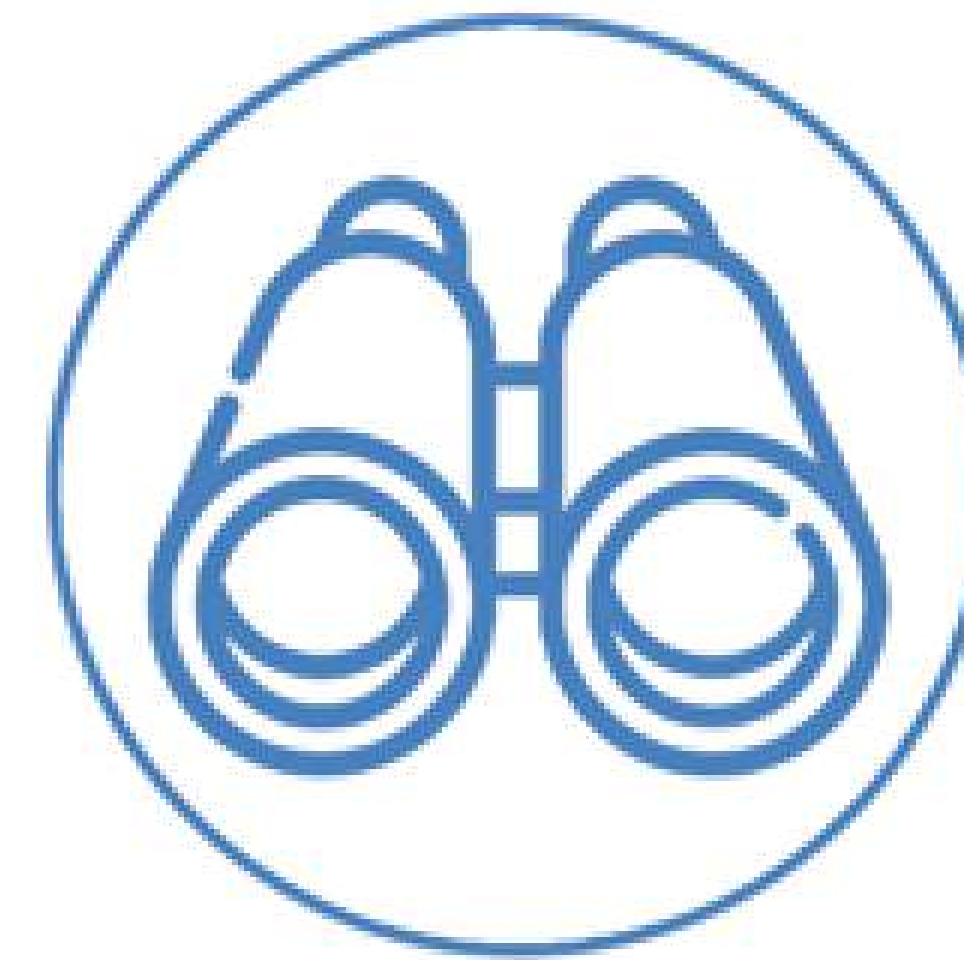


1. A UNIQUE EXPERIENTIAL AND PRACTICE-BASED MODEL



Designed keeping in mind the lived realities and needs of grassroots leaders, this program integrates **relevant theory with hands-on practice, creating the conditions for deep and sustained learning and growth.**

This 9 month journey identifies three key stages of leadership development:



Seeing the Change

Our participants understand the system, identify problems and root causes, and probe into the deeper realities of politics in India.



Being the Change

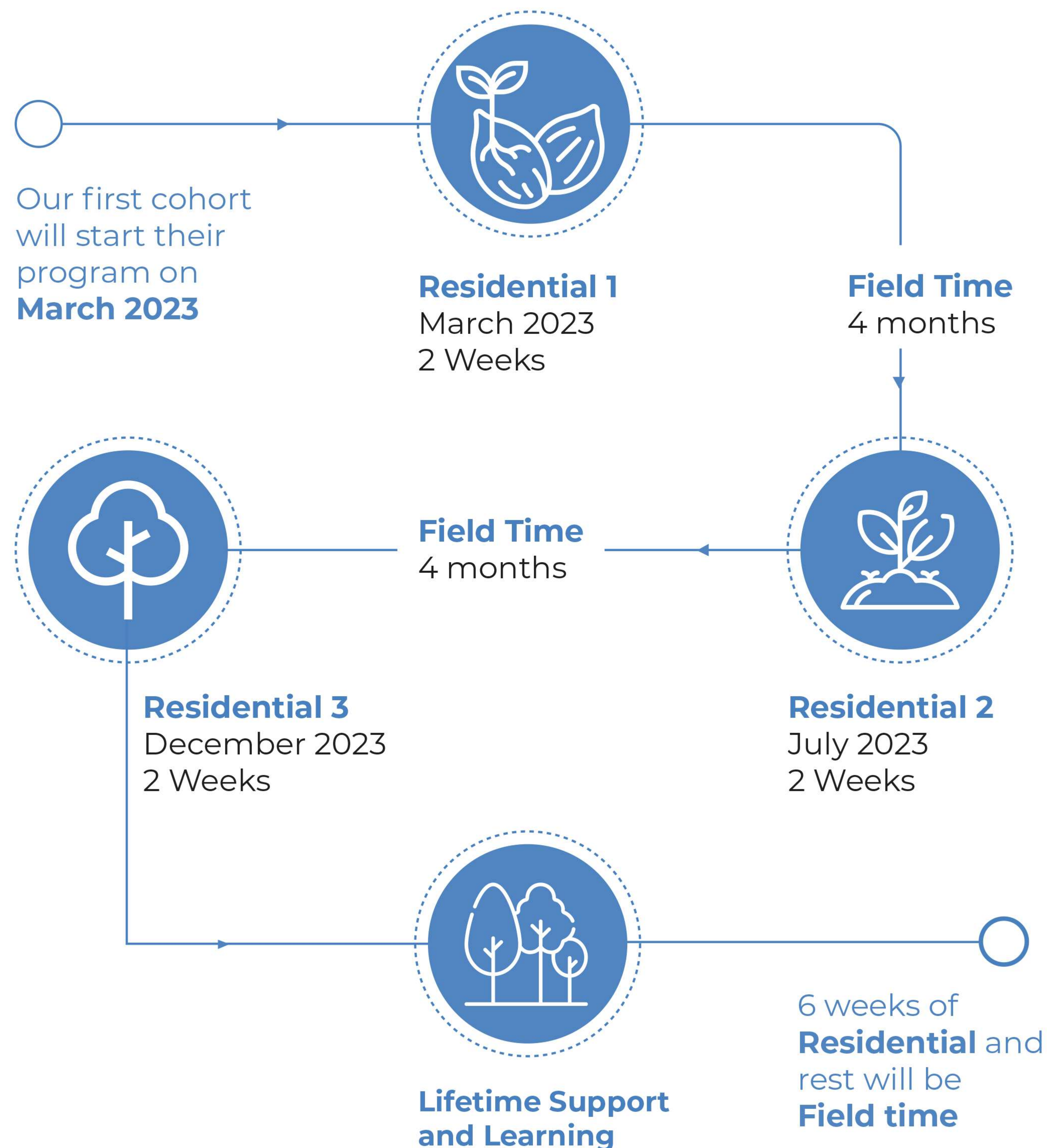
Our participants experience the lives and realities of the people we serve and understand what it truly takes to represent, serve and lead.



Leading the Change

Our leaders prepare for their future political paths, moving forward with their learning, their prototypes, their experiences and the truth.

1. A UNIQUE EXPERIENTIAL AND PRACTICE-BASED MODEL



Residential is a 2 week period where the cohort comes together in-person and full time as a community. Residentials are hosted in different areas through the year.

Highlights

- Rigorous skill training
- Peer learning
- Immersions and travel
- Inner work and preparation

Field Time has the participants apply learning from residentials in live projects and political experiments. These are done in their geographies and areas of political service.

Highlights

- Weekly online skill sessions
- Online talks with political leaders
- Regional mentorship
- 'Learning by doing' through live projects

2. TRAVEL AND IMMERSION ACROSS THE COUNTRY



When Gandhiji moved to India from South Africa, he was unsure of his role and commitment towards this country. His mentor Gopal Krishna Gokhale advised him to travel across India, explore and witness the true realities of the people. He believed to serve India one needs to truly live and experience India first.

Grounded in this belief, our participants will travel and explore different regions of India during each residential. These **'immersions'** will explore both rural and urban India, across several states and regions and will be grounded in the realities that affect the politics of those regions and of India as a whole.

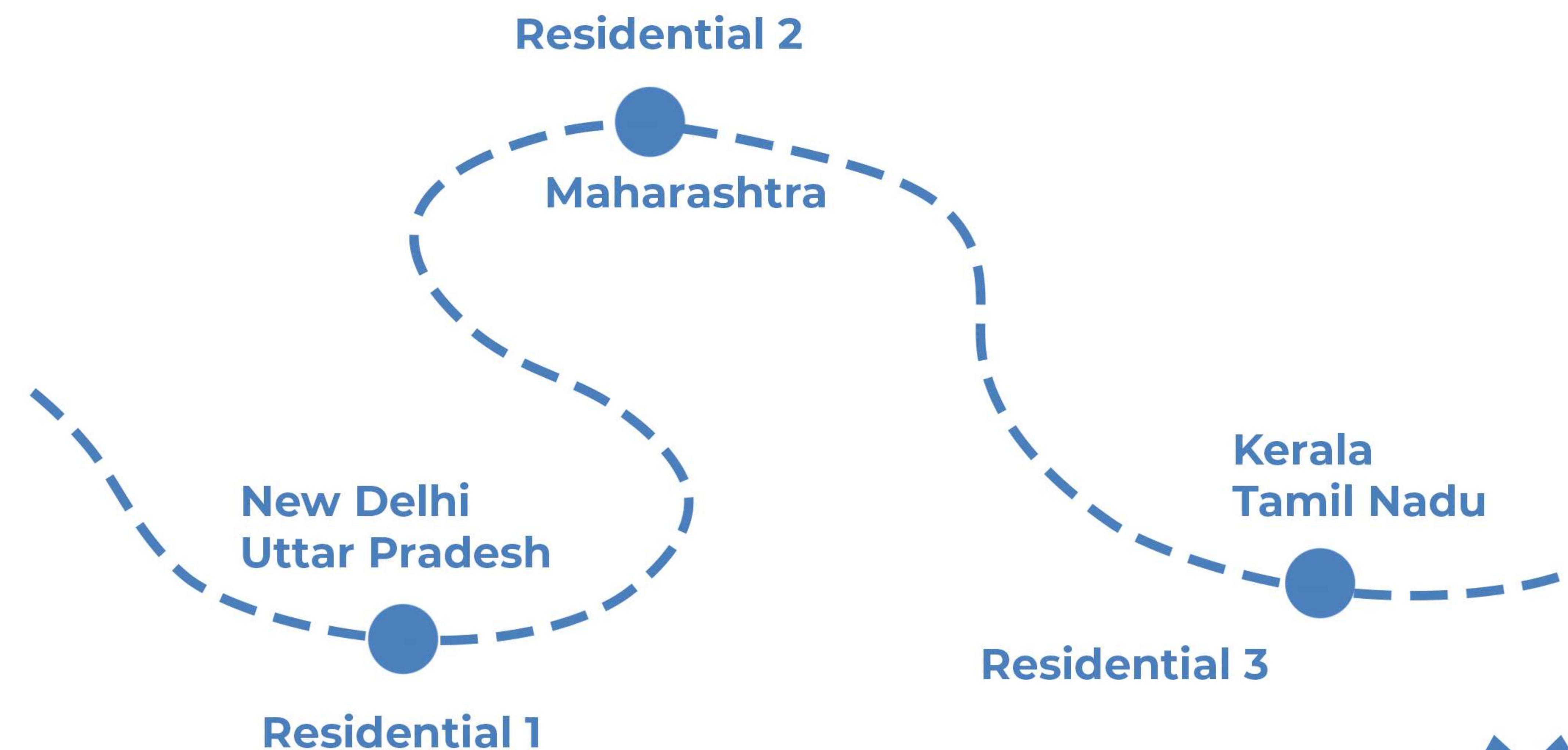
“I have watched the cultures of all lands blow around my house and other winds have blown the seeds of peace, for travel is the language of peace.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

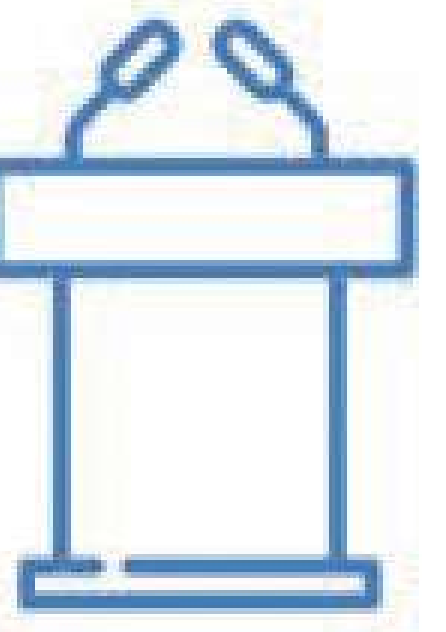
Residential 1
Uncovering
the political
system
Seeing

Residential 2
Listening to
the voices
unheard
Being

Residential 3
Taking
political
action
Leading



3. SKILLS TO BUILD POLITICAL READINESS



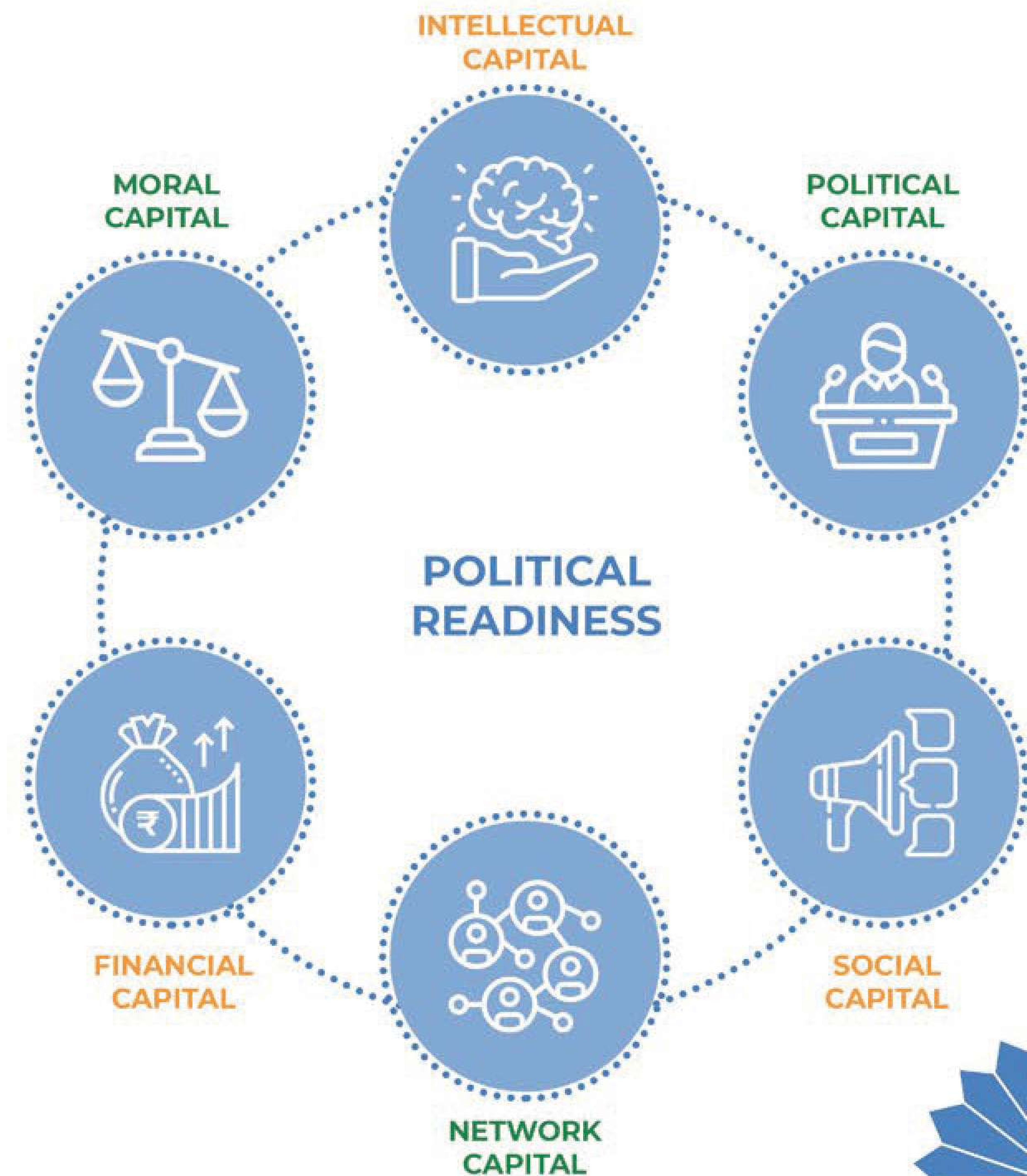
What is political readiness?

We believe political leaders need **6 different types of 'capital'** or 'wealth' for success in politics.

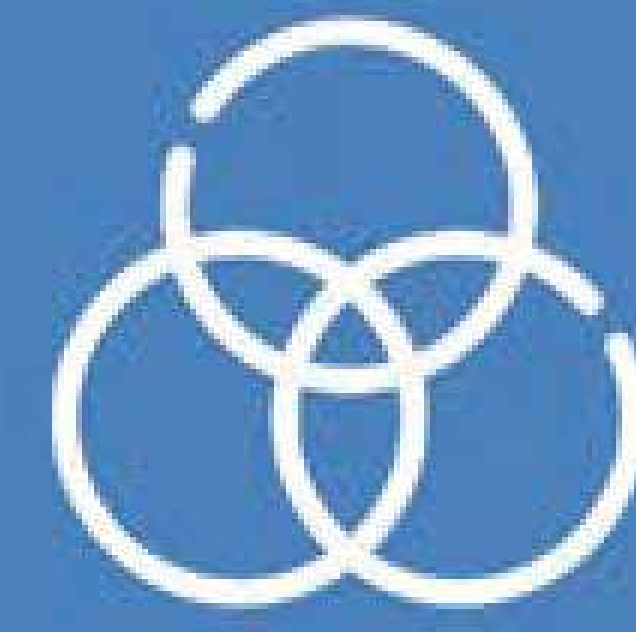
Through the program, our participants will build, leverage and spend these forms of capital to create meaningful change on the ground, and accelerate themselves towards their political aspirations.

“We want a deeper sincerity of motive, a greater courage in speech and earnestness in action.”

— Sarojini Naidu



4. INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM



A rigorous and interdisciplinary curriculum helps to build political readiness in our future politicians.

- Expert faculty lectures by political practitioners
- Regional learning
- Mock parliamentary debates
- Rigorous pre readings and preparation
- Primary and Secondary research
- Executing political projects on the field

<u>KNOWING SELF AND PEOPLE</u>	<u>DESIGNING POLITICAL INTERVENTIONS</u>	<u>MANIFESTING POLITICAL CHANGE</u>	<u>IMMERSING IN CURRENT REALITY</u>	<u>SEEING THE WHOLE SYSTEM</u>
Building public narrative	Designing surveys & research tools	Building low-cost election campaigns	India's cultural history	Constitution
Forming grassroots team	Interpreting constituent data	Social media and image management	Understanding state and national parties	State and national parties
Social Mediation	Managing a political budget	Speech and debating skills	Exploring political history of India	Panchayat system
Mobilising masses	Planning community projects	building partnerships and networks	Caste, religion and gender in politics	Municipal corporation/council system
Decision making and managing conflict	Fundraising for campaigns	Being a political worker on the ground	How to deal with Corruption	Working with local bureaucracy
Adaptive leadership	Evaluating progress	Using technology	Big political challenges today	Important policies and laws for governance

5. A DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE PEER COMMUNITY OF FUTURE POLITICIANS



Our Alumni community represents the voices and aims to build a community that serves a country as diverse as India, needs to be as diverse as her. Our cohort will represent the voice of different regions of the country, both rural and urban, represent the diverse demographics of caste, religion and economic classes and have a equal gender representation.

You will go on to join a vibrant alumni community spread across the country.

“Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.”

— Harry Emerson Fosdick



6. EXPOSURE TO A NETWORK OF LEADERS ACROSS POLITICAL PARTIES



Some of our past guests:



Amul Bhatt
Chairperson, AMC
BJP



Atishi
MLA, Delhi
AAP



Bijal Patel
Mayor, Ahmedabad
BJP



Bunker Roy
Barefoot College



Dr. Sanjay Paswan
National Exec Comm.
BJP



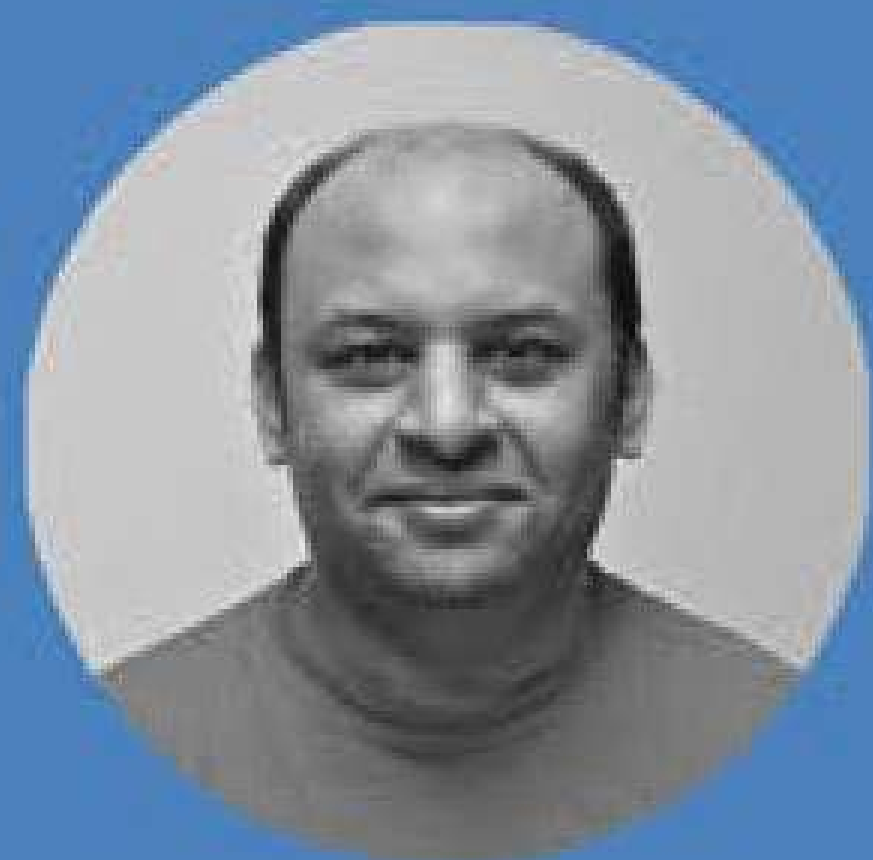
Kiran Maheshwari
MLA, Rajasthan
BJP



Gopal Rai
MLA, Delhi
AAP



Krishna Allavaru
National incharge
Youth Congress, INC



Pratik Sinha
Alt News



Prof. Ankur Sarin
IIM-Ahmedabad



Richa Singh
Samajwadi Party



Ritu Jaiswal
Sarpanch, Bihar

The Good Politician invites various leaders from the political community to talk to our participants, share their journey, challenges and learning. They will serve as guides and mentors and help our young leaders to build their own stories and forge their political journeys.



Shahnawaz Shaikh
Municipal Councillor,
INC



Shantanu Gupta
Political commentator



Shrikant Sharma
MLA, UP
BJP



Shashank Shukla
Joint Sect
INC



Anandiben Patel
Governor, UP
BJP



Vinod Verma
Political Advisor to
CM of Chhattisgarh



Bhakti Sharma
Sarpanch, Bhopal



Charu Pragya
BJP, National media



Harsh Mander
Social Activist



Jay Prakash Narayan
Founder, Lok Satta Party



Kavita Krishnan
CPI-ML



Medha Patkar
Narmada Bachao
Andolan



Srinivas Allavili
Citizens for Bengaluru



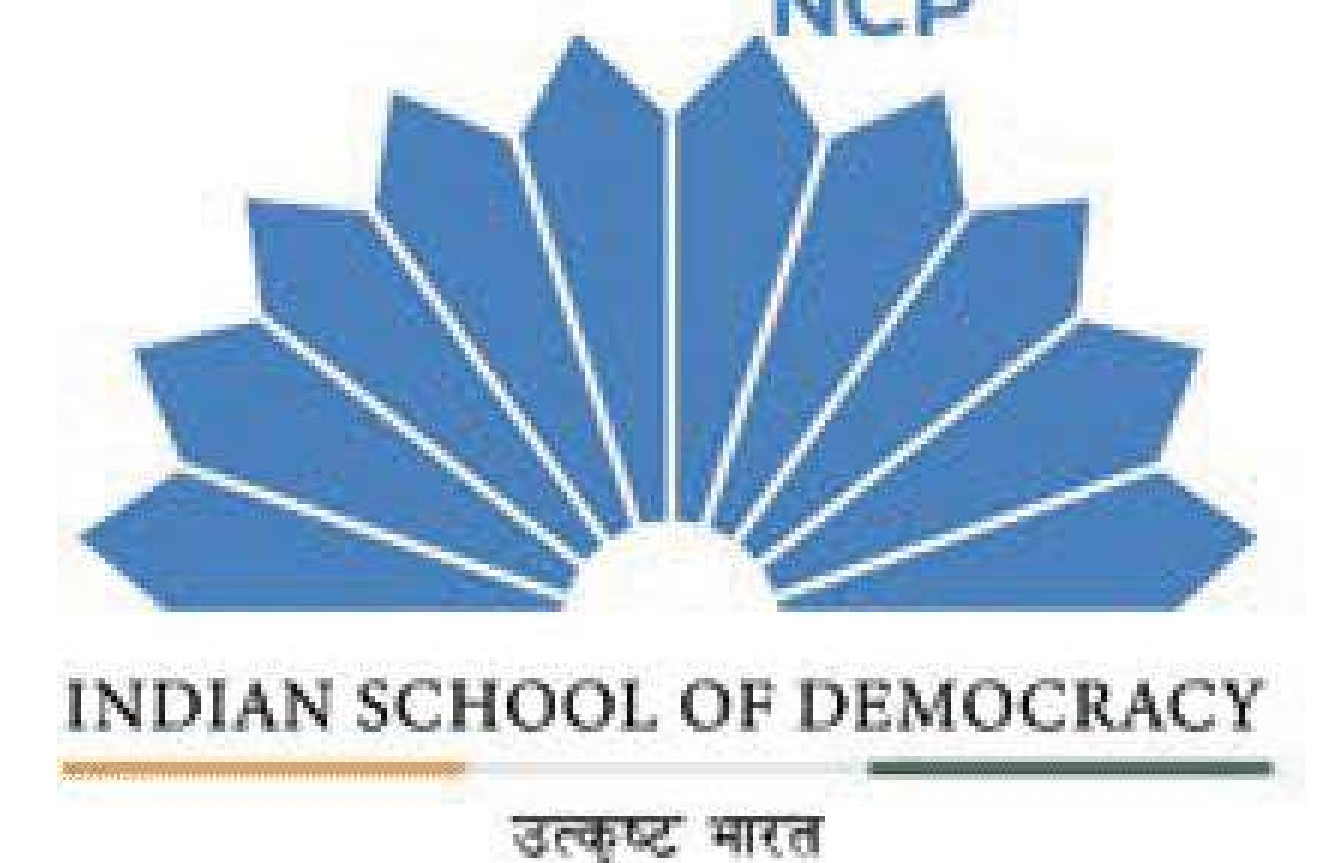
Sushmita Dev
Ex-MP, INC



Tara Krishnaswamy
Shakti and Citizens for
Bengaluri



Vandana Chavan
MP, Rajya Sabha,
NCP



7. IMMERSION TO NURTURE MORAL COURAGE AND IMAGINATION

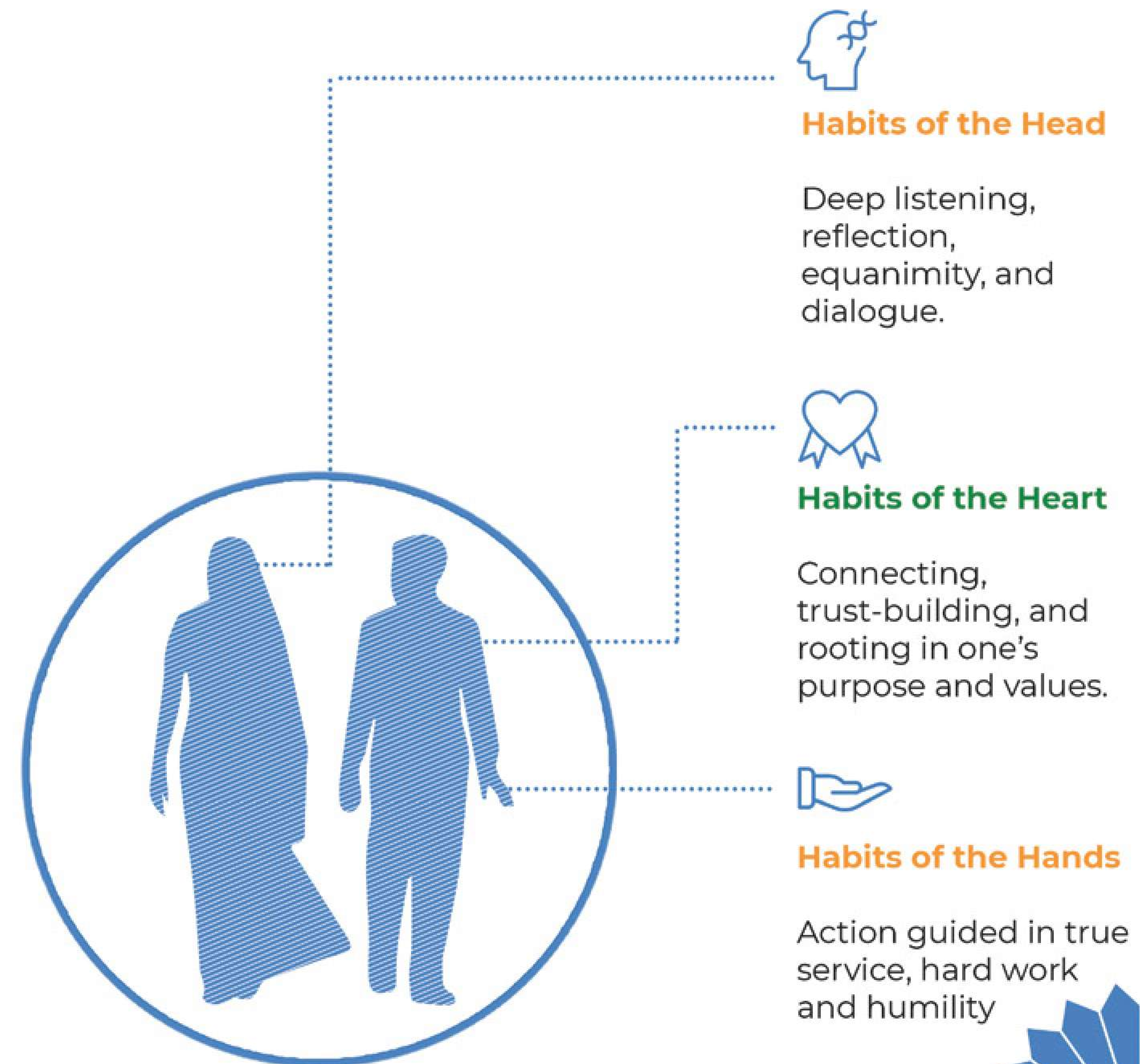


True leadership needs a deeper preparation, an inner transformation that enables a person to live their purpose and values in action.

Such learning engages the **Head**, the **Heart** and the **Hands** through repeated cycles of disciplined practices.

“Purity of speech, of the mind, of the senses, and of a compassionate heart are needed by one who desires to rise to the divine platform.”

— Chanakya



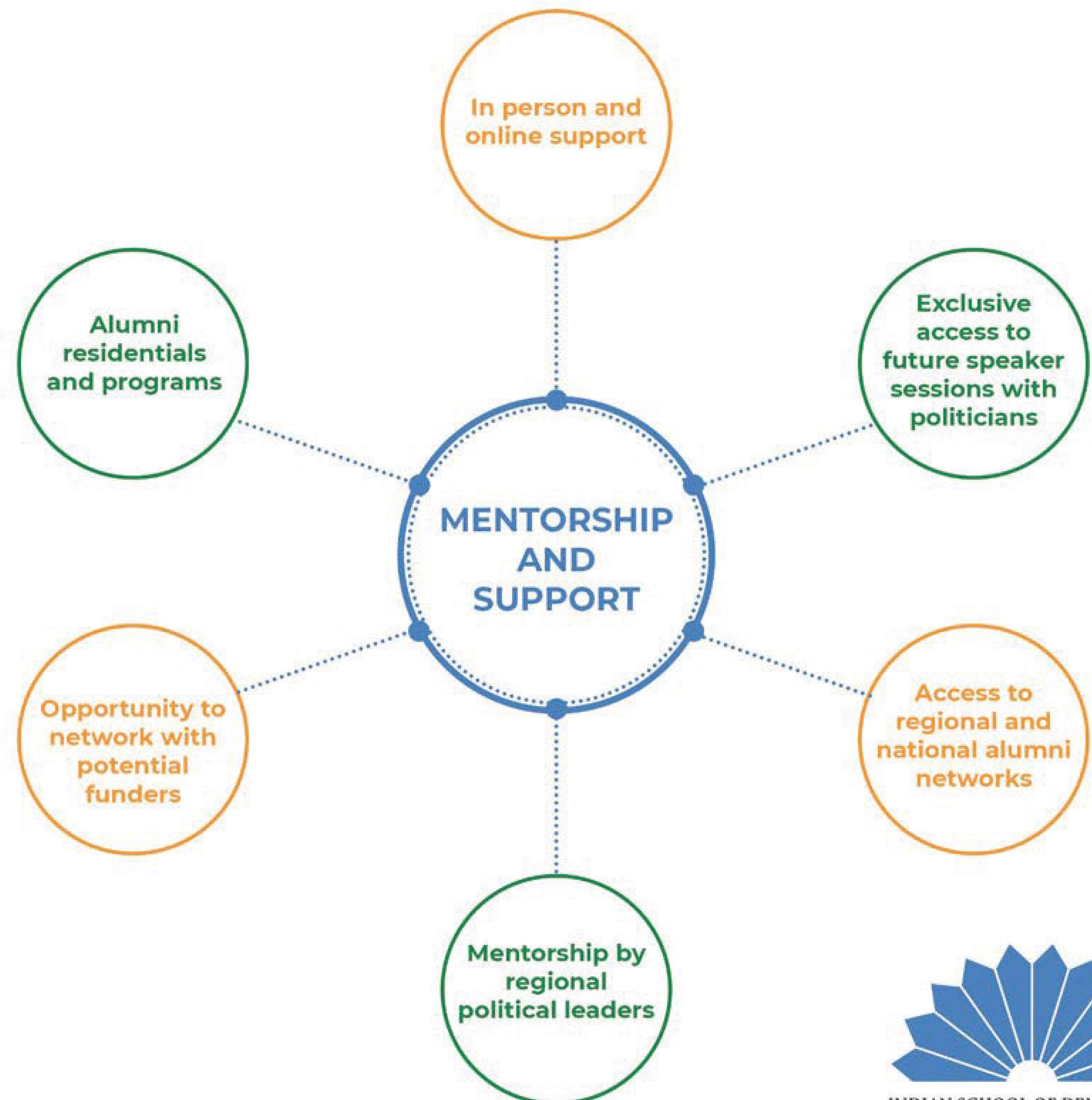
8. MENTORSHIP & SUPPORT FOR THE LONG TERM POLITICAL JOURNEY



ISD will provide continued support, guidance and mentorship after the program for **5-10 years**. You will be joining a group of amazing alumni who have already begun their journey towards political change.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead



WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We believe that the seeds of political change already exist. It is our duty to discover them and nurture their leadership in service to our country and democracy.

We are looking for young leaders who are:

Planning to contest elections at a village or city level in the near future

Already serving in the field (party workers, student politicians and others)

Have a strong commitment to serve all

Have deep local political knowledge and insight

Other criteria:

- Minimum **12th standard pass**
- Age **25-40 years** (with exceptions)
- Fluency in **Hindi or English**
- Stable source of **financial sustenance**

We highly encourage women and other disadvantaged groups (caste, religion, class) to apply. ISD is a non-partisan organization and invites applications from people from different political, social, religious and economic backgrounds.

**A working laptop with a stable internet connection is needed to access the program.*

OUR SELECTION PROCESS

The purpose of our selection process is for us to find the seeds of political leadership from across the country.

The entire selection process is designed to allow our participants to showcase their true potential and readiness for this program.



ROUND 1
Online Application (fill in English & Hindi).



ROUND 2
Video Interview with a team member.

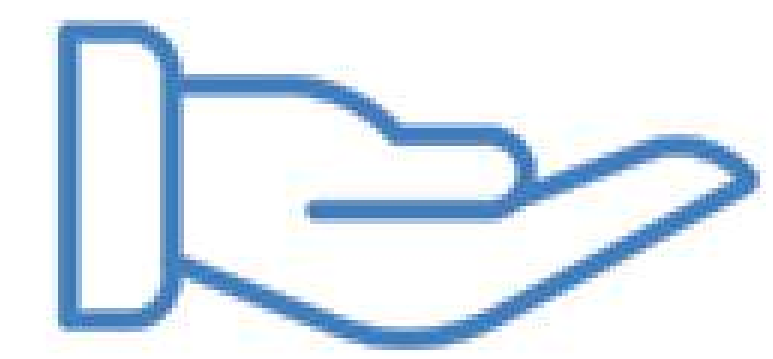


ROUND 3
Selection Bootcamp (across several parts of India)

“Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”

— John F. Kennedy

FEES AND CONTRIBUTION



Our sincere intention is to make this valuable program accessible to everyone, irrespective of socio-economic status. Since this form of experiential learning is not yet mainstream, we invite participants to look at it as an investment in your own self and your political future.

The actual base cost per participant for **THE GOOD POLITICIAN** is ₹ 2 lakhs. However, to include and support varying paying capacities **we provide generous need and merit based scholarships up to 100%**

We do not want finance to be a roadblock in learning for anyone. Our selection process is **completely merit based** and we will talk about the ability to contribute financially with each of our participants. We will collectively **find a way for all deserving candidates to be a part of the cohort** even if they cannot pay for it.

As we learn and grow together, we take care of all those who offer us their gifts while fostering a spirit of care for all in our communities. We look forward to having you with us.

“Awake, arise and educate, smash traditions – liberate.”

— Savitri Phule

FACULTY & MENTORS



Amitabh Behar,
CEO Oxfam India



Asaduddin Owaisi,
Member of Parliament
Chief AIMIM



ATISHI,
MLA- AAM ADMI PARTY



Rahul Bal
Congress



Mrs. Selvy Nirmala
Sarpanch,
Kemmarampalayam
Panchayat, Coimbatore



Dr Sanjay Paswan,
Former Member of
Parliament, Bharatiya
Janata Party



Bilal Zaidid,
Founder
OurDemocracy.in



Charu Pragya,
National Media
Panelist, Bharatiya
Janata Party



Esha Alagh,
Director- I-PAC



Shantanu Gupta,
Author and Political
Analyst



Sachin Rao,
Member CWC,
Indian National Congress



Dr S.Y Qureshi,
Former Election
Commissioner of
India



Dr Jaya Prakash Narayan,
Founder LokSatta
Movement



Milind Deora
Indian National
Congress
Former Member of
Parliament



Rajeev Gowda,
Former Member of
Parliament, Indian
National Congress



Tara Krishnaswamy,
Co Founder -
Shakti - Political
Power to Women



T.R. Raghunandan,
Former IAS officer



INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY

उत्कृष्ट भारत

ALUMNI OF INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY



Bibhuti Routray, Odisha (Democracy Express 2019) Political Consultant with BJD advising the CM's Office on comms & IT in Odisha. He also runs a political accelerator called 'Politics For Good', aimed at bringing more women into electoral politics.



Laxminarayan Paneri, Madhya Pradesh (Democracy Express 2019) assisting National General Secretary, Mr. Kailash Vijavargiya, BJP, ex MLA, Ramesh Mendola, BJP, Madhya Pradesh.



Madhuri Varshney, Delhi (She Represents 2020) is ex-councillor candidate from AAP Delhi(2015) working with the Delhi govt. for education reform. She is a member of the central SMC team, DCPCR, SMC cell, and Delhi Development Commission.

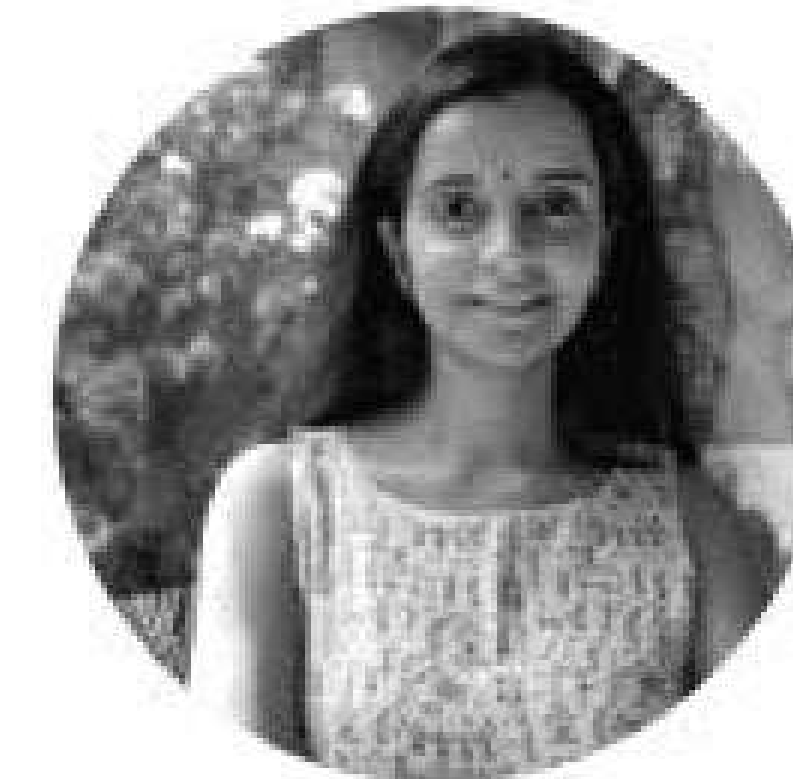


Priyanka Kumari, Bihar (Democracy Express 2019) is preparing for the Sarpanch elections in Sitamarhi district, Bihar.

The Circle of Feminist Politics is working towards organizing 2000 women and LGBTQI+ members to break structural inequality. The collective will enable a political party in 2024 led by feminist politics. Members: **Aayushi Jain, Archana K, Ishita Dutta, Sreeja Basu, Pranay Manjari Samal (DE 2019) and Meenakshi Gandotra (SR 2020)**



Sindhu M Sudarshan, Karnataka (She Represents 2020) is working as the youth wing vice-president for AAP, Bangalore. She is also a 'Youth for India' fellow '16-17, BCLIP alumna and a former team member of Reap Benefit, Bangalore.



Spurthi Kolipaka, Telangana (She Represents 2020) is part of a citizens collective 'womcommatters' working to establish a functional women's commission in Telangana and eradicate gender based violence. She recently launched a fellowship for citizens to lead political action.



Gufran Pathan, Gujarat (Democracy Express 2019) built a data and tech platform, 'Jutaav', that helps political candidates with community organising and building strategy for electoral campaigns. Their team is currently working with several candidates across Bihar, Karnataka and Gujarat.



Standpoint India is an online editorial working with young people committed to disciplined sourcing of knowledge, and building data driven by a strong understanding of India's socio-political, economic, cultural and tech related developments. Founding Members: **Pratik Kanodia, Bibhuti Routray (Democracy Express 2019)**

TESTIMONIALS FROM ALUMNI



"I got to know about Democracy Express through a friend. The reason why I chose to come to this program is because I am a Panchayat leader and want to understand how I can enhance my leadership skills. I got to learn a lot here, not just through books and theories but also through a lot of activities. All of us have come with a lot of aspirations and in the 5 days so far, we are understanding what it is to be a principled leader."

- Selvi V, (Democracy Express 2021)

"The program was beautifully designed and soulful, something one would not expect from a political program, there was IQ (intelligence quotient), EQ (emotional quotient) and SQ (spiritual quotient) ... the people, the facilitators, the speakers, the mentors, the cohort itself, there was so much to learn"

- Pallavi Nayak, (She Represents 2020)

"There were questions that I sought answers for and it was quite difficult to seek for those answers alone. With ISD I got a lot of answers which I believe has mentally developed me"

- Aakanksha Baghel (The Good Politician 2021)

"The contribution of ISD in my political life has been immense. They gave me space to think and build upon my ideas as well as understand how it would look turn out on ground."

- Alok Chandra (The Good Politician 2021)

"Being someone who has been active in politics for some time now, I was under the impression that there is nothing new to know about politics. However, when I attended the session on Democracy, I realized that there is still so much scope to look into the values, institutions and frameworks that can strengthen Indian Democracy."

- Manam Brahmiah, Andhra Pradesh (Democracy Express 2021)

TESTIMONIALS FROM POLITICAL LEADERS

"I am very very happy that such a kind of program exists. The reason I feel that it is very important and good is that tomorrow out of this group that you have, some of these can even lead the country and become parliamentarians and if you mould their thinking towards good governance and also remind them of the responsibilities bestowed upon them by the people, they will understand the effective role they can play as a politician if they are elected or not elected."

- Asaduddin Owaisi, Chief AIMIM

"The programs that ISD are doing are so important...it is familiarizing young people with the landscape of politics and introducing them to politicians and helping them understand how politics can be used to make a difference, so great work"

- Atishi, Aam Aadmi Party

"The fundamental nature of democracy is to be very deliberative and the fact that ISD is able to bring participants from 12 states who can sit together and think on what is going well and what needs to be done better is in itself an accomplishment."

- Sridhar Pabbisetty, Director, Kautilya School of Public Policy

"It is high time that we have more honest, educated and motivated youth in politics. Building a youth cadre is essential for politics more than ever before. In this light, ISD must play an important role (through their program) in building the values, skills and service orientation among youth in this country."

- Pallae Raghunatha, Former Minister (Telugu Desam Party)

"It's very easy to shout at people and win an argument. It's very difficult to persuade people and bring about change. We are in the business of persuading people and bringing about change. ISD leaders give me hope for that change "

- Dr Jaya Prakash Narayana, Lok Satta



THE TEAM



Hemakshi Meghani, Co Founder, ISD

Hemakshi completed her Masters in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School as World Bank Graduate Scholar. She has worked with Boston Consulting Group, Teach For India and various other organizations on issues of education, policy reform and systems change. She is a trained coach in adaptive leadership.



Prakhar Bhartiya, Co Founder, ISD

Prakhar founded Youth Alliance, a social enterprise that nurtures empathetic leaders in 2008 and transitioned out in 2018 to study Masters in Public Administration at SIPA, Columbia University. He is also an alumnus of Teach For India and is a facilitator for youth leadership and personal development.



Anita Manoharan, Program Lead, ISD

Anita completed her Masters in Public Administration & International Development, from the London School of Economics. Anita is a Teach For India fellow, and has worked on the program team as well. She also holds a Masters in English Literature from University of Delhi.



Ankit Navasha, Program Manager, ISD

Ankit is a Right to the City activist who primarily advocates for housing and social security for informal workers. He has studied journalism and Social Work from University of Delhi and has written extensively for news portals. He has previously worked with Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) and National Hawker Federation.



Pousali Sarkar, Senior Program Associate, ISD

Pousali Sarkar, a graduate of political science from University of Delhi and a Young India Fellow. She is working with Indian School of Democracy as a Senior Program Associate. One of her core areas of interest is working towards enhancing citizen participation in the Indian Democracy.



Sagar Nain, Associate, ISD

Sagar helps us find our participants from across the country. He is Young India Fellow 2020 and graduated from University of Delhi.

OTHER PROGRAMS BY INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy Express

राजनीतसे लोकनीति

Democracy Express A 9-day program conducted by ISD in December each year. Participants travel together and explore different regions of the country with the goal to build a positive narrative around politics, strengthen their political skills and build a community of principled leaders.

She Represents

शक्ति है सक्षम भी

She Represents A 7-day immersive online learning experience for aspiring women political leaders, conducted in summer every year. The goal of She Represents is to build concrete political skills among women leaders, immerse in the political reality of India, and overcome inner and systemic barriers.

Sarvodaya Champions

सर्वोदय चैपयिन

Sarvodaya Champions This program is for people who have been active in social movements or political work for at least 5 years. The intention is to dive deep in a few districts of India, to explore, and better the way politics and democracy are experienced by citizens there and enable Sarvodaya at a district level through collective social and political action.

The Good politician

द गुड पॉलिटिशियन

The Good politician A unique 9-month experiential program that invites 50 emerging grassroots leaders to embark on a political journey. This experience builds political skills, a community of future politicians, and the moral courage and imagination to lead political change across India.



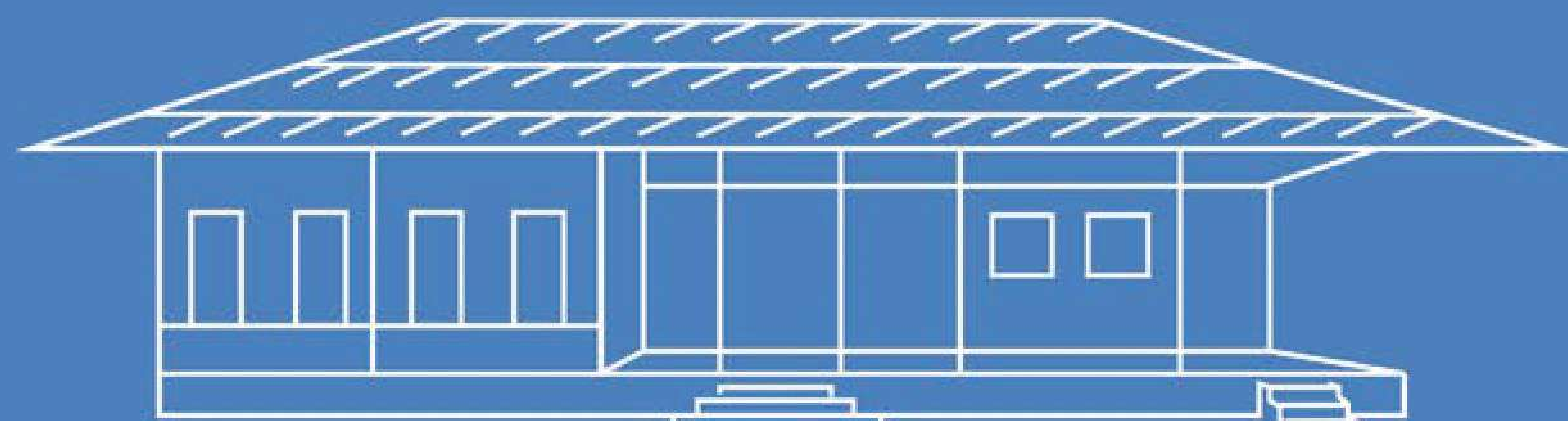
ISD : A 21st CENTURY SABARMATI ASHRAM

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any"

— Mahatma Gandhi

During the independence movement, Sabarmati Ashram became a place that embraced multiple ideas and where people from different walks of life came together. It became the place which gave birth to movements that unified Indians. It was the first time in the history of India that people from across the length and breadth of the country were unified for a common cause. Sabarmati Ashram was a welcoming space for both a peasant and zamindar, for a factory worker and factory owner, for a freedom fighter and British officer. That space was rooted in the values of harmony between head, heart and hands that enabled people to lead a principled life. It inspired and anchored a generation of leaders to build India in the 20th century!

We envision Indian School of Democracy to be the 21st century Sabarmati Ashram even though the program will happen in various locations. We say this because we want Indian School of Democracy to become a platform that prepares a new generation of leaders - leaders who have the moral courage and imagination to make India and every Indian achieve their highest potential. Much like Sabarmati Ashram, we imagine ISD being inclusive and holding different political perspectives, but having a common **vision of Sarvodaya** (upliftment of all). Leaders of ISD will have a still mind, compassionate heart, fearless hands and will surrender themselves to nation building.



ISD'S MANIFESTO

***We asked a child, 'Who is a leader?'
'A good human being' she said.***

The power of her words is our belief.

We, the people of Indian School of Democracy, dare to believe.

We believe that one day India will stand tall as the world's most inclusive democracy.

We will lead with a still mind, a compassionate heart, and fearless hands.

We will reclaim politics as public service, so it truly serves the people.

We will break free from the shackles of left and right, to create a tolerance for multiple truths.

We will stitch the divisions of caste and creed, religion and class, with the threads of humanity.

We will hear the silenced, stand strong with the weak, and serve the unserved with humility.

We will fight polarity with interconnectedness, inequity with justice, violence with love.

***No truth will shrink us.
No hurt will daunt us.
No struggle will stop us.***

***We, the people of Indian School of Democracy,
will always dare to believe.***



INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY

Indian School of Democracy is a non-partisan organization that conducts short and long-term programs for aspiring, grassroots political leaders. ISD envisions to nurture principled grassroots politicians, who have the moral courage and imagination, to work on strengthening Indian democracy and achieve Sarvodaya.

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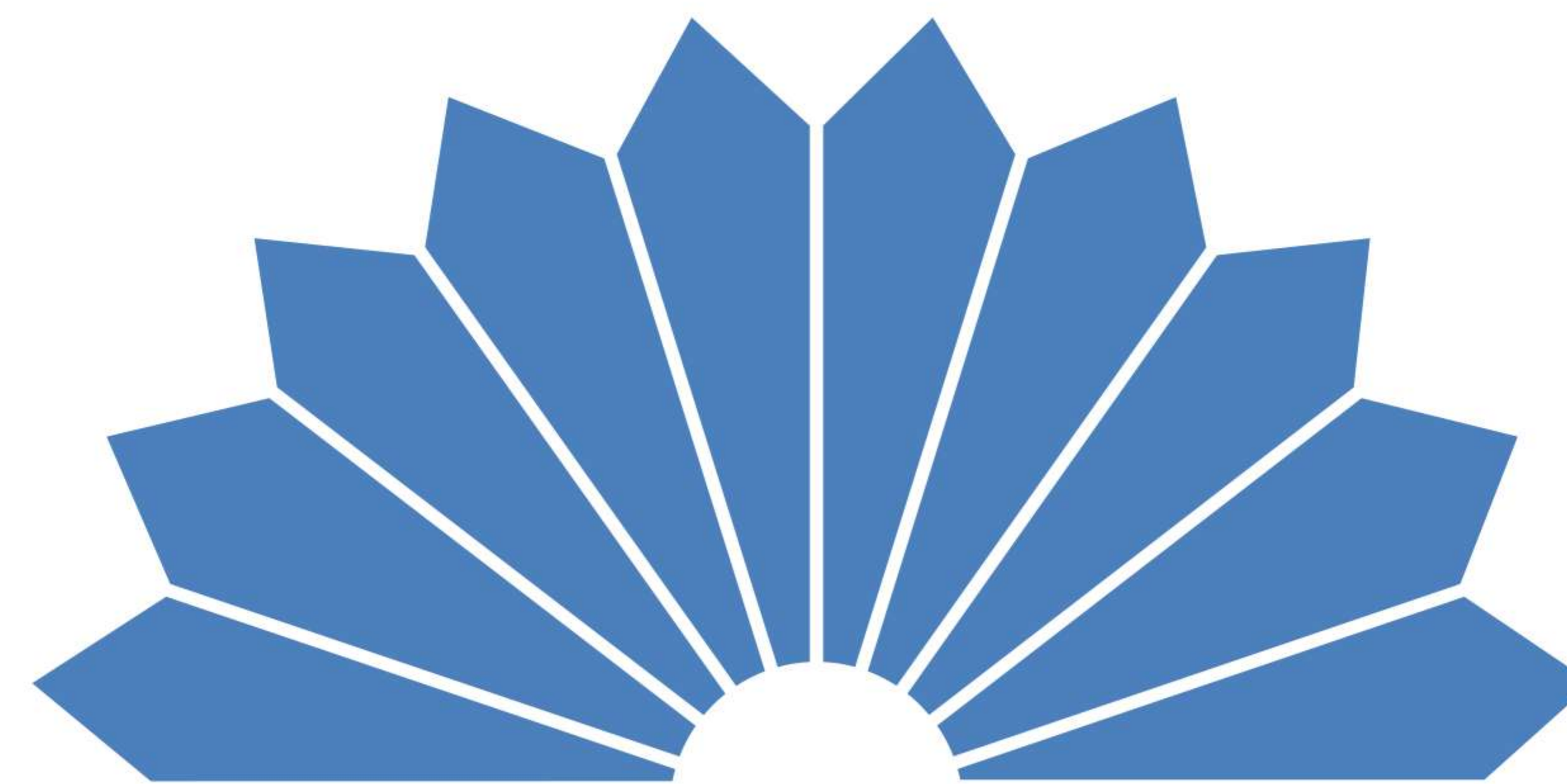
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