

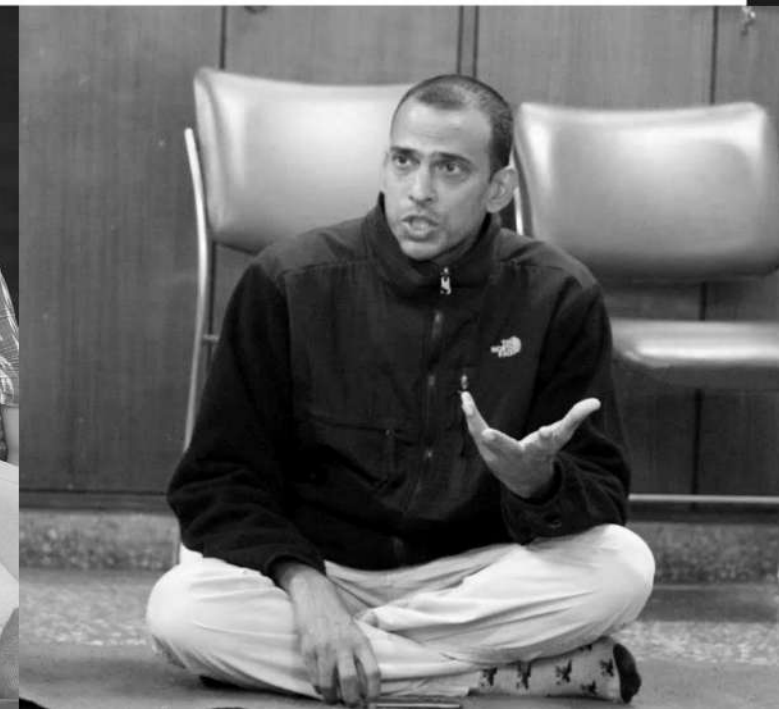


INDIAN SCHOOL OF DEMOCRACY

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.

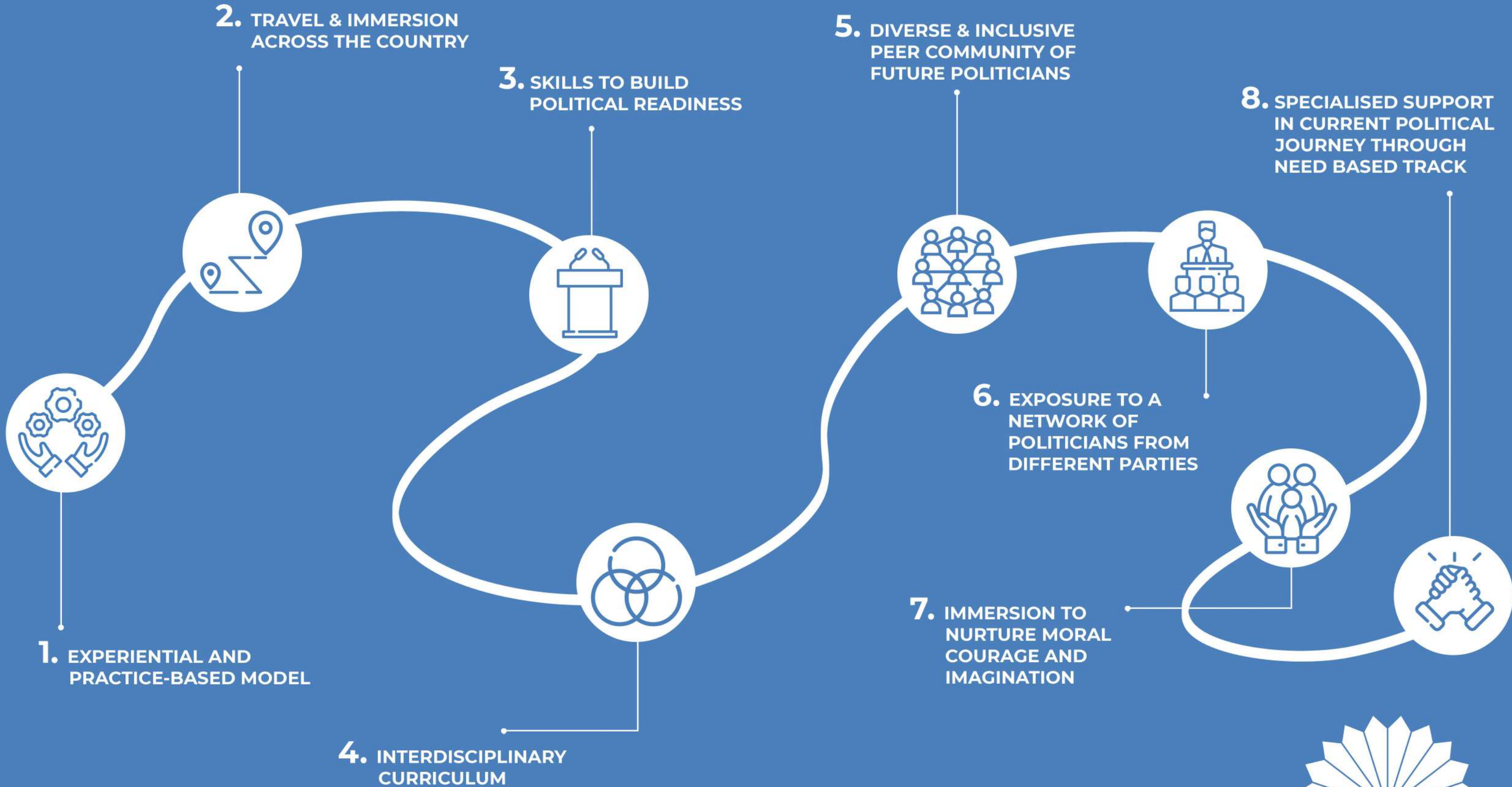
How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life?

...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

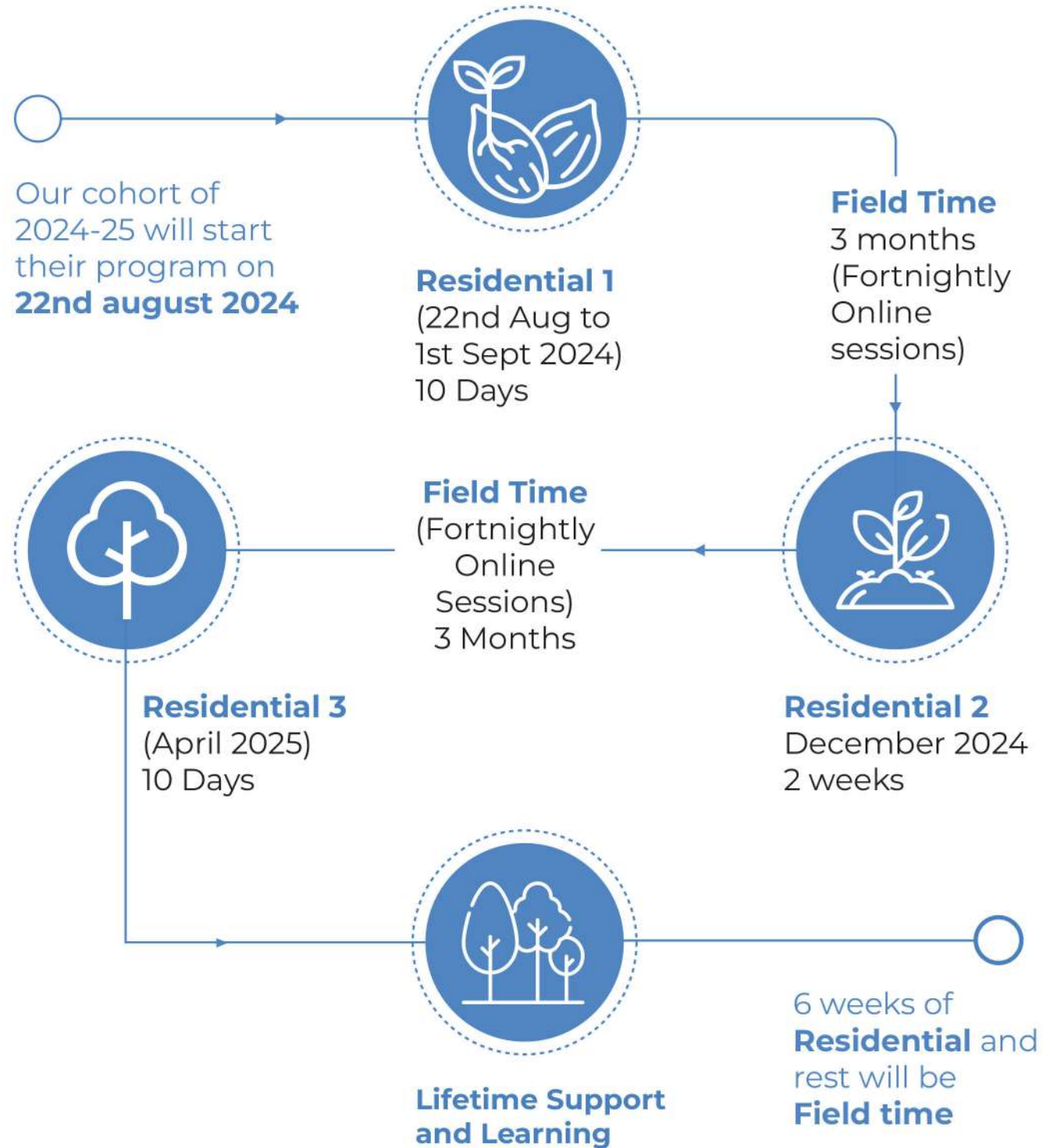
Our participants experience the lives and realities of the people we serve and understand what it truly takes to represent, serve and lead.



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 10 to 14 day 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
- Specialised elective/need based sessions for participants

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



Under Travel and immersion: Be it Ambedkar's resolve to address caste issues or Gandhi's journey of self-discovery upon returning to India from South Africa. Both faced uncertainty about their roles in serving the community. While Ambedkar experienced discrimination in Baroda State even after being a learned advocate, Gandhi ji sought guidance from his mentor Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Gokhale advised him to travel across India, immersing himself in its realities by meeting people firsthand. This immersive approach shaped their understanding of societal issues and guided their commitment to serve the people.

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

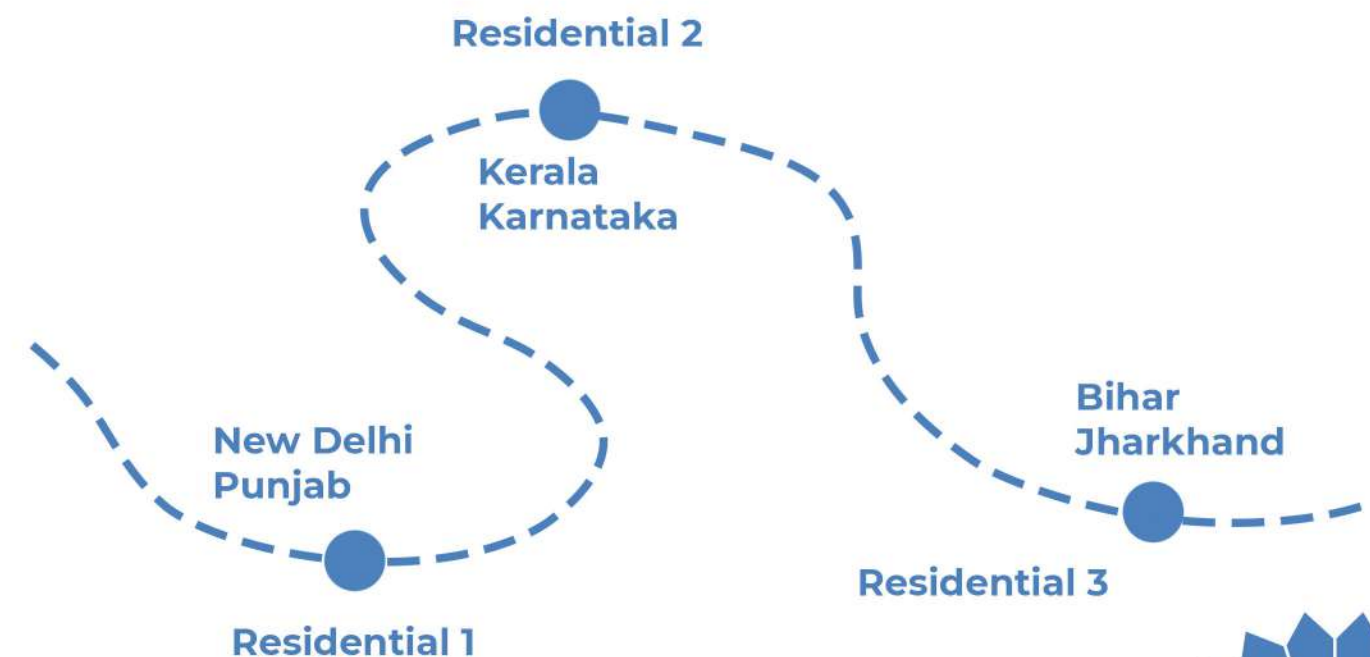
“I have watched the cultures of all lands blow around my house and other winds have blown the seeds of peace, for travel is the language of peace.”

— 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



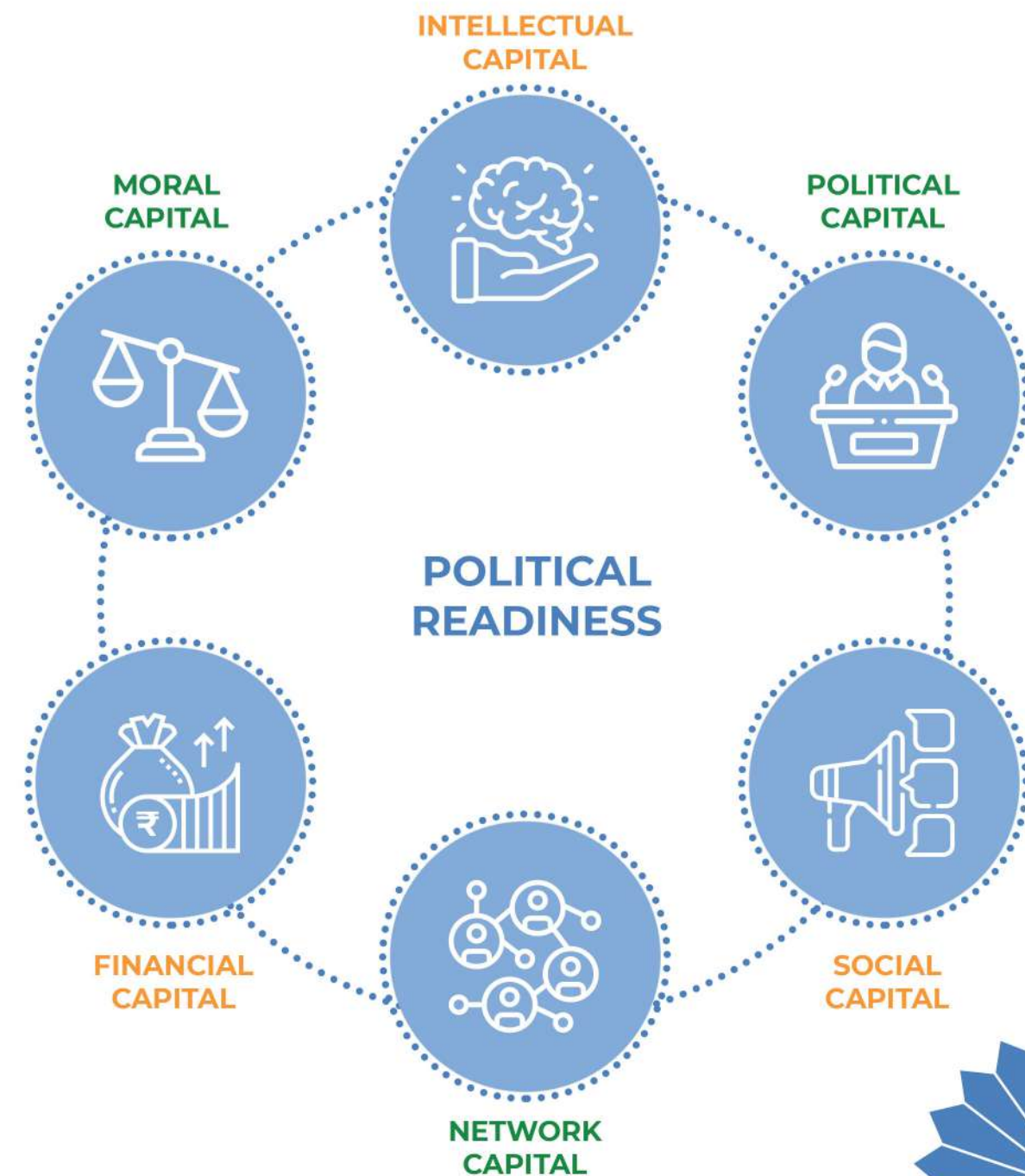
What is political readiness?

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 and political context	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, argumentation and negotiation skills	Exploring political history of India	Panchayati Raj 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	Persuasion and Mobilisation of Stakeholders	Seeing the cultural and political conflicts	Working with local bureaucracy
Ethics and values	Evaluating progress	Being a political worker on the ground	Examples and models of hope	Important policies and laws for governance
Leadership Challenges and Ways				

5. A DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE PEER COMMUNITY OF FUTURE POLITICIANS



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 be one among **50 pathbreaking leaders**, Who will make the third cohort of **The Good Politician program**.

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:



Mahua Moitra
Member of Parliament,
All India Trinamool



Atishi
MLA, Delhi
AAP



Sanjay Singh
Member of Parliament,
AAP



Bunker Roy
Barefoot College



Dr. Sanjay Paswan
National Exec Comm.
BJP



Phangnon Konyak
State President of
BJP Mahila Morch



Nitin Gadkari
Union Minister
BJP



Krishna Allavaru
National incharge
Youth Congress, INC



Pratik Sinha
Alt News



Husain Dalwai
Former Member of
Rajya Sabha, INC



Prafull Gadage
Corporator,
Nagpur, INC



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



Anjali Ambedkar
Vanchit Bahujan
Aghadi



Shashank Shukla
Joint Sect
INC



Anandiben Patel
Governor, UP
BJP



Vinod Verma
Political Advisor to
CM of Chhattisgarh



Deva ji Tofa
Human Rights
Activist



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



Yogendra Yadav
Foundings Member
Swaraj Party

7. IMMERSION TO NURTURE MORAL COURAGE AND IMAGINATION

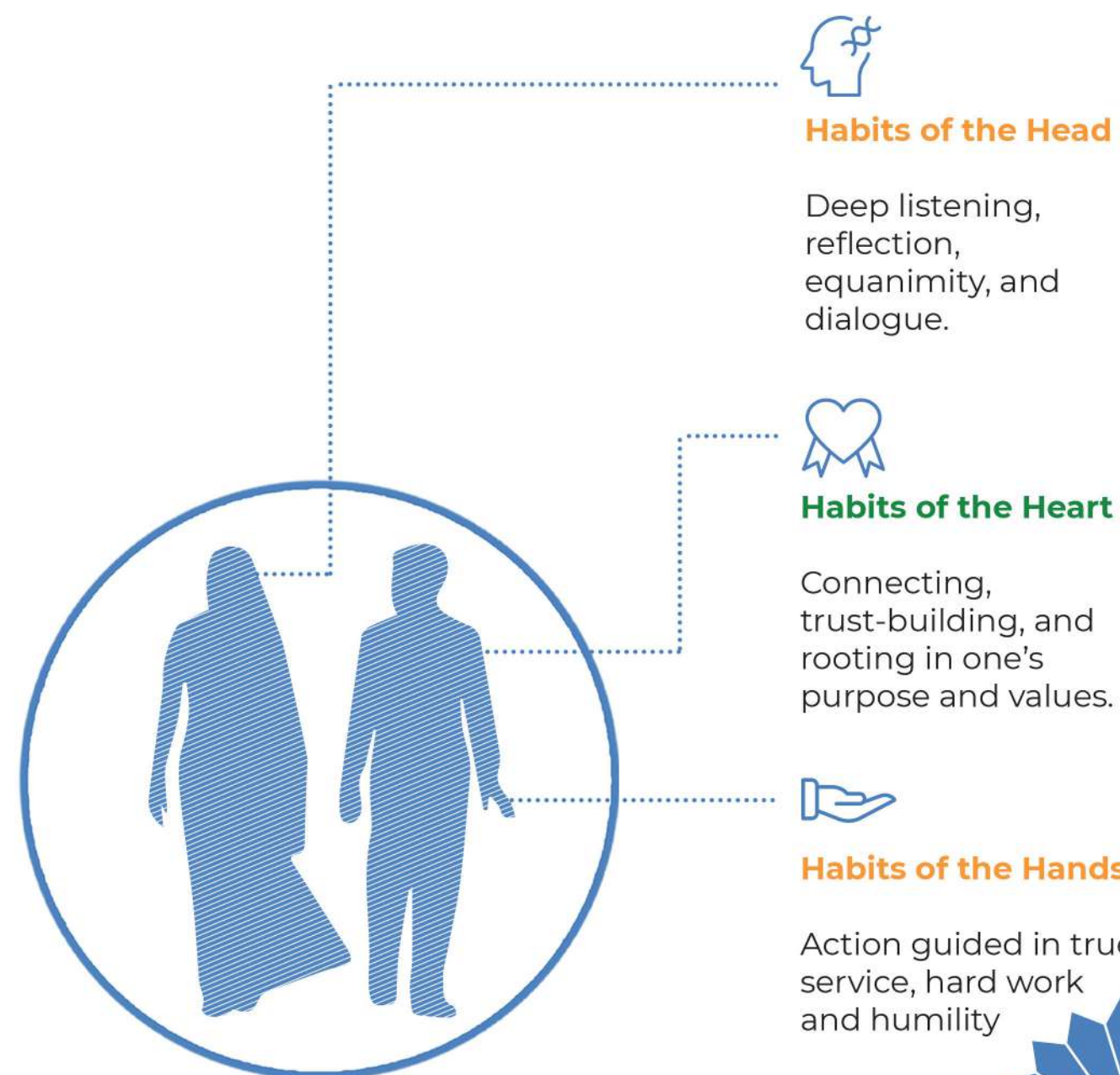


True leadership needs a deeper preparation, an inner transformation that enables a person to live their purpose and values in action.

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



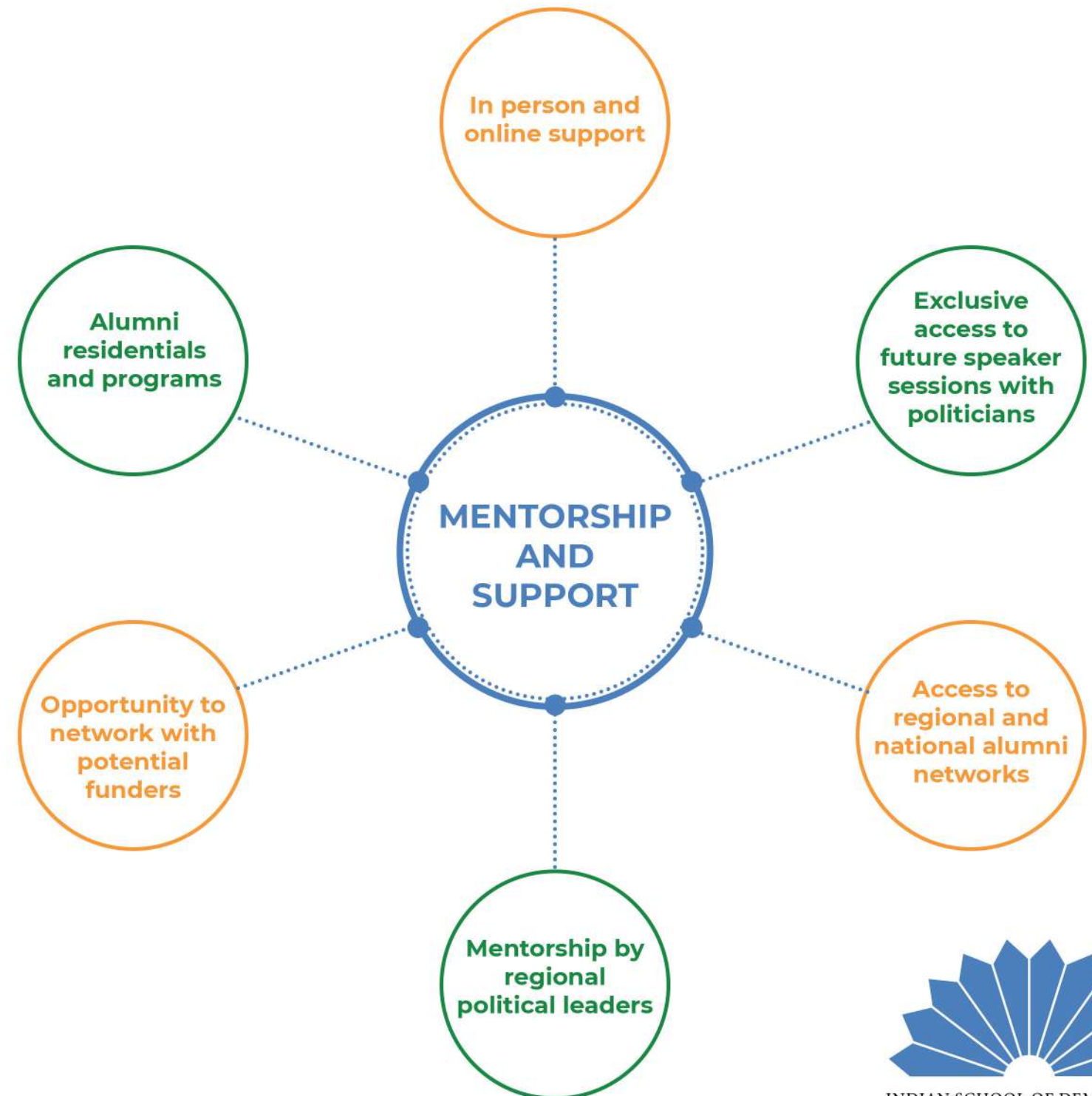
8. MENTORSHIP & SUPPORT FOR THE LONG TERM POLITICAL JOURNEY



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 **25-45 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.

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

— John F. Kennedy

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). Applications launch

Date: 5th May 2024



ROUND 2

Video Interview with a team member. Interviews will begin

Date: 1st June 2024 to 7th July 2024



ROUND 3

Weekend Bootcamp (across several parts of India) in

Date: 20-21st July 2024

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 cost per participant for **THE GOOD POLITICIAN** is Rs 2 to Rs 3 Lakh, 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



Ashutosh Varshney,
Professor - Brown
University



Charu Pragya,
National Media
Panelist, Bharatiya
Janata Party



**Dr Jaya Prakash
Narayan, Founder
LokSatta Movement**



Kamla Bhasin,
Feminist Activist



Praveen Chakravarty,
Chairperson - Data
Analytics, Indian
National Congress



Rajeev Gowda,
Former Member of
Parliament, Indian
National Congress



Rajni Bakshi,
Journalist



Sachin Rao,
Member CWC,
Indian National Congress



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



Shantanu Gupta,
Author and Political
Analyst



Dr S.Y Qureshi,
Former Election
Commissioner of
India



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



T.R. Raghunandan,
Former IAS officer



Yamini Aiyer,
President - Centre for
Policy Research

..and many more political practitioners

ALUMNI OF THE GOOD POLITICIAN PROGRAM



Ashish Dahatonde (The Good Politician 2023) is a Member of Washim District Panchayat. A member of Nationalist Congress Party Ashish believes that the role of leadership is to nurture the community for ensuring social justice.



Priya Patil (The Good Politician 2023) is chairperson of the LGBTQIA+ cell of Nationalist Congress Party. She became the head of the first LGBTQIA+ cell in a political party in the country. A gender rights activist Priya is working on the inclusion of people from transgender identity in politics and has contested Councillor election herself from Kurla in Mumbai.



Raju Silli (The Good Politician 2023) is a movement builder and social mobiliser who is currently an active member of Jharkhandi Bhasha Khatiyani Sangharsh Samiti, a Jharkhand based social movement for getting back the self respect of language and issues of locals. He is preparing to contest from Silli Vidhan Sabha in Jharkhand state assembly elections.



Veeranjanyulu Kanakamedala (The Good Politician 2023) is currently State Technical Convenor of Telugu Desam Party and founder of Bangalore TDP Forum.



Vrushali Dattar (The Good Politician 2023) is an ex ward councillor from Bopal Municipality now part of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in Gujarat. An active member of Bharatiya Janata Party, she works on Right to Education and is also an entrepreneur.



Ajit Yadav (The Good Politician 2021) is an active member of Samajwadi Party in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh. An avid reader and sports enthusiast Ajit is also an ace election strategist who coordinated 12 assembly seats for the party in 2022 state assembly elections and the party managed to win 9 of those seats.



Ashweetha (The Good Politician 2021) is a gender rights activist who is currently working to ensure women's participation in active politics at local level through her initiative Penn Collective. Having worked with the office of Kanimozhi, a DMK MP, she is currently serving with other projects on women rights in the country.



Ganesh Ravi (The Good Politician 2021) is a member of Indian National Congress in Medininagar, previously known as Daltonganj Municipal Corporation in Palamu district of Jharkhand. A social activist dedicated to human rights and social justice, he is currently preparing to contest Lok Sabha election from Palamu seat.



Parthiv Raj Singh Kathewadia (The Good Politician 2021) is State spokesperson of Indian National Congress in Gujarat. An active member of the party since youth congress Parthiv has contested ward council elections.



Tabassum Fatima Siddiqui (The Good Politician 2021) is member of State Minority cell of Indian National Congress in Delhi. Previously a member of Aam Aadmi Party, she has also contested Ward council elections from Indian National Congress in Delhi.

TESTIMONIALS FROM ALUMNI



"For me this experience was both political and emotional. The program really helped get clarity on both the fronts. I could learn a lot of technical stuff but internal sessions helped me a lot. Things were kept as per the need. Framework like Six Capital was certainly a new lesson for me which would help me in preparing for my political journey."

- Disha Pinki Sheikh, The Good Politician 2023. State Vice President, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi.

"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)

"It was very important for me to learn and understand these three dimensions of focusing on myself, understanding my goals and practically implementing them on the ground. During the entire programme, there was a sense of spiritual energy along with learning."

- Mrityunjay Rai, The Good Politician 2023.

"The lack of women in politics bothers me a lot. The Good Politician program helped me to understand the problem better and pushed me to be a part of the solution. The exposure given by The Good Politician through in-class sessions and outdoor visits helped me to gain an insider view of politics. I am more prepared to face what comes my way to pursue my journey in politics. It has further strengthened my belief in the possibility of good politics."

- Ashweetha, The Good Politician 2021.

"The Good Politician has helped me navigate my political journey, it reaffirmed my belief on the kind of politics I always aspired to do. Moreover I got a family in the form of this community where I can share my hopes, failures, success and vulnerabilities."

- Zeeshan Aaqil, The Good Politician 2021.

TESTIMONIALS FROM POLITICAL LEADERS

"I think it is great that through this program, those young people who want to think about politics, social issues will get an opportunity"

- Atishi Marlena, Aam Aadmi Party

"It is important to increase understanding of what democracy is ... Organizations like ISD should be there to help the new generation come into politics and make democracy even more vibrant"

- Sanjay Paswan, Bharatiya Janata Party

"ISD's initiative is unique and new in india ... just like the country requires good doctors, good engineers, good bureaucrats, it also requires good politicians"

- Richa Singh, Samajwadi Party

"The worst state today is of politics and politicians, young people have to come in, you cannot shirk responsibility that politics is dirty and we will not work in it. Politics is not just MP/MLA, you have to go to the most backwards sections in rural regions and understand their context to be effective"

- Ritu Jaiswal, Rashtriya Janata Dal

"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

"It's a great way for youngsters to come and experience politics in a very short time. It is a wonderful initiative, I would encourage people to come in and participate"

- Krishna Allavaru, All India Congress Committee



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THE GOOD POLITICIAN

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