"Nations are built by leaders who master their senses" – this was famously said by Kautilya. The Indian civilisation’s greatest contribution has been mastering the inner nature. While leadership is popularly defined by external conquest of territory, wealth or position, in the Indian context inner conquest is the prerequisite of leadership.

In the history of world civilisations, India is the only living civilisation on this planet which has retained its character. It has seen its share of ups and downs for several millennia. It has not just survived, but thrived. As recent as 250 years ago, the entire world was searching for this prospering land. This was possible only because this land has consistently produced great thought leaders, reformist social leaders, and dedicated political leaders. Their names are alive in public memory. But today when we look around, we do not find such leaders in abundance. This scarcity is not just at the top, but at all levels - from panchayat to parliament, from villages to cabinet secretariat, from primary schools to universities. This vacuum is holding our country back when it is time to grow by leaps and bounds.

Throughout history, various countries have created institutions to nurture public leaders whenever they faced a crisis of existence. In the 1870 Franco-Prussian war, the French army was decisively defeated. The quick defeat of the French was attributed to their outdated military education. It broke the morale of the French people. Émile Boutmy, a French political scientist and sociologist, analysed this defeat and created École Libre des Sciences Politiques (Sciences Po) as a response. The intention was to create an institution that will help France come out of its moral and political crisis. This would be done by training the ruling classes of France to lead France in the right way. Today Sciences Po has produced several French presidents, heads of government and international organisations and much more. It has played a key role in pulling France out of the abyss and making it a superpower. The Matsushita Institute of Government and Management is a similar effort in Japan.

There is an urgent need for such an institution in India. The above institutions were built for a specific country in a specific context. They have produced extraordinary results. We need the same yet different – a world-class Indian institution for public leadership, built for the Indian needs, rooted in the Indian ethos. An institution for man-making, not just for securing careers of the graduates; an institution to change the course of our Nation.

SHOBHIT MATHUR
Co-Founder & Dean
Rashtram School of Public Leadership
IIT Bombay | Uni. of Washington | ISB
NATIONS ARE BUILT BY LEADERS WHO MASTER THEIR SENSES

Kautilya
371 BC - 283 BC
Royal Advisor to Chandragupta Maurya
Author of Arthashastra
Philosopher | Economist
INCEPTION
Vision India Foundation was launched by alumni and faculty members of various IITs in 2014. Mentored by accomplished academicians, politicians, bureaucrats, and social leaders, VIF set out to fulfil their vision of nation building through man making.

IMPACT
In its five years of operations, VIF’s Fellowship Programme has identified, mentored and supported 25+ individuals who work in political, governance and policy, education, and civilisational research domains. The Center For Executive Education has curated 20+ innovative learning programmes in policy-making and governance, thereby reaching out to 1500+ students and professionals. The Center for Good Governance offers consultation to state governments for the implementation of various governance-based projects. The Center For Strategic & Foreign Relations publishes literature on India’s foreign policy.

FUTURE
With the support and mentorship of like-minded individuals, VIF conceived the vision of creating a world-class institute for nation-building that is steeped in the ethos of Bharat: Rashtram School of Public Leadership.

ABOUT VIF & ITS IMPACT SO FAR

INNOVATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMMES IN POLICY MAKING & GOVERNANCE

20+

STUDENTS & PROFESSIONALS

1500+

EXPERT MENTORS & ADVISORS

70+

FELLOWS

25+

ARTICLES

100+

Alumni in Public Policy & Governance (PPG) domain when they enrolled

9.4%

Alumni currently in the PPG Domain

20%

Alumni planning to work in PPG domain in the future

56%
LEADERSHIP AT RASHTRAM

FOUNDING TRUSTEES

ASHOK GOEL
Chairman, Essel World

RAKESH AGGARWAL
Co-Founder, Rishihood University

DR. ANIL ASTHANA
Medical Entrepreneur

ANURAG GOEL
CEO, Cactus Global

BOARD OF STUDIES

DR. GURURAJ KARAJAGI
Director, Academy of Creative Teaching, Bengaluru

DR. NAGARAJ PATURI
Fmr. Senior Professor of Cultural Studies, FLAME University, Pune

ADVISORS

RAJAT SHARMA
Chairman, India TV
LEADERSHIP AT RASHTRAM

RESIDENT FACULTY

RAGHAVA KRISHNA
Associate Dean & Resident Mentor
Fmr. Development Director, EA

MAHESH SHARMA
Professor of Practice
Padma Shri Awardee

DR. MALA KAPADIA
Resident Mentor

SURENDRA SRIVASTAVA
Professor of Practice
President, Lok Satta Party

PRASHANT SINGH
Associate Dean & Resident Mentor
Fmr. Development Director, EA

VISITING/GUEST FACULTY

DR JAYPRAKASH NARAYAN
Founder, Lok Satta Party
Fmr. IAS Officer

ARUN MAIRA
Fmr. Member of Planning Committee
Fmr. India Chairman, BCG

DR NOMESH BOLIA
Faculty Member, IIT Delhi
Co-Founder, Vision India Foundation

MAJ GEN (RTD) AJAY CHATURVEDI
Author and Public Speaker
Recipient of Ati Vishishth Sewa Medal

You can view the rest of the guest/visiting faculty by going to https://rashtram.org/about/faculty/
LEADERSHIP AT RASHTRAM
EXECUTIVE TEAM

SHOBHIT MATHUR
Co-Founder & Dean
Alumnus of IIT Bombay | Uni. of Washington | ISB

SAHIL AGGARWAL
Co-Founder & Director
Alumnus of IIT Delhi | OP Jindal Uni.

KUMAR SUBHAM
Co-Founder & Director
Alumnus of IIT Delhi

RAGHAVA KRISHNA
Co-Founder & Associate Dean
Fmr. Development Director, EA

SANJEEV SIRNOORKER
Co-Founder & Director
Young India Fellow

ARUNIMA GUPTA
Sr. Manager, CSFR
Alumnus of LSR | Leiden Uni.

NIRMALA SAMANT
Director

DR MALA KAPADIA
Resident Mentor

ADITYA KESANUPALLI
Director, Communications
Young India Fellow

SHWETA SINGH
Manager - Admissions

SUYASH PANDE
Manager - Center for Executive Education

ANUVA AGARWAL
Manager - Admissions

You can view the rest of the Executive Team by going to https://rashtram.org/about/executive-team/
Although diverse, the Indian people share solidarity at a deep level. In its peak, Indian Civilisation was one of the highly developed and progressive civilisations of its time. It thrived and produced enduring ideas that benefitted all. Timeless knowledge was passed through a master architecture of ideas and institutions that worked as a coherent whole. This coherence helped produce men and women of unsurpassed integrity, courage, and wisdom. These great men and women have constantly renewed the ancient wisdom in contemporaneous terms to bequeath to us, the wealth of an incomparable heritage – Sanatana. Our civilisation was built on the foundation of an investment into human consciousness. Identity, Stability, and Prosperity are the eternal concerns of every Nation. History is witness to the fact that all great leaps in the lives of Nations happen when leaders, armed with the legitimacy of their people, align the collective energy with the National ethos. In other words, they create coherence through a crystallised vision that steeps deeply into the hearts and minds of a people.

Navigating through this complex maze, and re-establishing the quintessential unity of this land and her people is the real job for leadership today. This challenge cannot be met by the prospect of economic growth alone. If anything, such one-dimensional thinking will further exacerbate the fissures. ‘Transformative Change’ happens when national actors or managers to fuse ideas, will, and action together into an edifice of civilisational solidarity, in contemporary terms.

**Why Rashtram - The Alchemy of Transformative Change**

**India Today is Witnessing Massive Friction at Four Levels:**

- **Individual vs Collective**
  - For example: LGBTQ+ Rights

- **Collective vs Collective**
  - For example: LGBTQ+ Rights

- **Tradition vs Modernity**
  - For example: LGBTQ+ Rights

- **Short Term Needs vs Long Term Priorities**
  - For example: LGBTQ+ Rights
WHY RASHTRAM

THE POWER OF IDEAS - JNANA SHAKTI

The history of ideas is the backstory to the progress of humanity. At every turn, thinkers produced ideas that animated the imagination of the people and created hospitable conditions for change. These ideas produce 'identity' that can gives a sense of purpose and meaning to people. It is through this process that a state becomes a nation. In the modern context, the mandate of producing ideas is given to Academic Leaders - academicians, thinkers, opinion makers, and so on. It is up to the Academic Leaders to produce ideas that foster a holistic vision of society and humanity.

THE POWER OF WILL - ICHHA SHAKTI

The power of will is paramount to scaling ideas from the minds of a few to the hearts of many. It is this journey that confers legitimacy to the ideas and creates agency in people. Legitimising right ideas through the creation of agency leads to 'stability.' In the modern context, the mandate of guiding this journey and embedding nourishing ideas into the fabric of a nation is given to Political Leaders - politicians, consultants, and strategists and so on et cetera.

THE POWER OF ACTION - KRIYA SHAKTI

Action does not only serve as a catalyst for results, but generates momentum and support around it. Action, when channeled into productive avenues leads to ‘prosperity.’ The State cannot create prosperity. The mandate for the State should be to create the conditions for 'stability' in which people can exercise the natural human genius for enterprise and creativity. The lifeblood of the identity and stability needs to flow through the veins of the civil society to create prosperity. In the modern context, the mandate of driving change in communities is given to Social Leaders - community leaders, non-profits, and social movements.

India needs transmission mechanisms, i.e. which are our institutions, to once again propagate this knowledge, and leaders who embody this knowledge and can articulate it for the contemporary context. Rashtram intends to bridge the gap between our civilisational knowledge and the leadership discourse of the country. We incubate and accelerate the journey of future public leaders of India, and populate the institutions of this country with a critical mass of committed and competent individuals who can bring coherence between the multiple realms of nation-building.
WHY RASHTRAM - THE ALCHEMY OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE
At Rashtram, ‘learning’ and ‘living’ are not considered two distinct activities. They are considered to be integrated, and it is this synthesis between the two that can help change-makers in ‘leading’. Thus, the learning environment and learning methods should be as natural as life itself. Keeping this in mind, we nurture our change-makers using the L2 - Learning & Living - Framework.

The goal of nurturing future public leaders demands that our approach be unique, robust, and adaptive. We hope that our framework will develop into an adaptable model that can be used by many other institutions in the future.

**LEARNING AT RASHTRAM**

**LEARNING PHILOSOPHY - THE L2 FRAMEWORK**

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**Instructed Learning**
Curated courses, discussion models, and ‘Gurukul Guidance.’

**Reflection**
Meditation & reflections to synthesise knowledge.

**Hands-on Projects**
Working with leaders or organisations on real world problem-solving.

**Gurukul Guidance**
Insights on life and mission on a regular basis from mentors.

**Evaluation**
Assessment of growth & personal feedback on attitude, skills, & ‘pravritti’.

**Connection With Society**
Field components & regular societal engagements.

**Quantum Learning Networks**
Developing rapport w/ Learners to develop a quantum network.

**Recreation**
Periodic exposure to art forms, cultures, games, festivals, & other creative forms.
LEARNING AT RASHTRAM

LEARNING DIMENSIONS

**KNOWING ONESELF**
Studying your ‘svabhava’ or ‘fundamental nature,’ through introspection of aspects such as basic personality traits, emotional intelligence and focusing your energies.

**BUILDING INTELLECT**
Critically engaging with the ideas that shaped the course of history, understanding institutional design, and decoding the discourse of our time and the worldview they stem from.

**LEADERSHIP**
Ability to imagine and articulate a larger vision, inspire action, generate momentum and exercise refined judgement. Connecting to people’s idea of a leader and building on it.

**DEVELOPING INTERPERSONAL INTELLIGENCE**
Collaboration, spirit to initiate interaction, understanding the nuances of world cultures, negotiation, and interpersonal skills such as intellectual clarity and humility.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Change is the end result of all true learning.* - Leo Buscaglia

The aim of Rashtram is to create self-aware leaders, who will pioneer systemic change. We wish to hone their skills and competencies, and provide the necessary tools to achieve this goal. The learning outcomes can be categorised thus:

**KNOWLEDGE**
The Learners will be able to communicate on the basis of Indic Knowledge Systems. They can critically analyse any theory or concept through Indic Frameworks.

**PEOPLE**
The Learners will be capable of engaging with people, communicate effectively, mobilise, and mentor others. They will be develop compassion & handle conflicts wisely.

**SYSTEM**
The Learners will be able to design, organise, and execute tasks with a renewed vision in their respective domains, bringing about systemic change.
Live as if you were to die tomorrow; learn as if you were to live forever. - Gandhi

**Rashtram Accelerator** is a one-year residential public leadership programme to nurture future leaders of India to produce authentic action. Rooted in the ethos of Bharat, the programme is firmly focused on nurturing leaders to solve the most pressing global problems.

The programme design envisages an immersive experience with guided learning on campus, reflections, field visits, social immersions, mentor conversations, and project work. The participants live together with the mentors and faculty for a continuous learning experience. Rashtram also provides incubation for social entrepreneurs, and encourages its Learners to take give form to their ideas.

All these components are seamlessly integrated to provide a holistic understanding of our social systems, to build character and endurance of the participants to contribute to nation-building.

Learners will receive a Post-Graduate Diploma on successful completing the programme.

The Rashtram Accelerator is based on teachings from [Indic Knowledge Systems](#). IKS provide us with frameworks that will help future public leaders learn for life. These frameworks are authentic to India and when calibrated in modern context, help us tackle the macro problems of our future. Our ambition is that our participants engage with and help solve the most pressing global problems today.

IKS combined with Indic Well-Being Rituals focus on increasing mental and physical well-being of our future public leaders. This programme aims to provide learners with a sense of awe and kindle their interest in Indic knowledge systems. The learners will be able to trace the history, evolution and structure of Indian thought, describe the theories of epistemology and compare them with the prevalent western discourse. This course is significant as it helps the learners to draw from the rich well of wisdom from Indic traditions, to unveil the solutions for the challenges the world faces today.
ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME CURRICULUM

META SKILLS BASED APPROACH

Learning is a life-long process, it is emergent. The one-year Accelerator Programme at Rashtram aims to initiate the Learner deeply into this process by creating the necessary humility, grace, and intellect. This is achieved through a curriculum focused on instilling a set of ‘meta skills’ that equip our learners with mental models to remain relevant in a rapidly changing context.

In the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world of today where the boundaries of physical, digital and biological are collapsing into each other, a truly trans-disciplinary outlook that taps into first principles of key disciplines is needed to help address the pervasive crisis of meaning-making. These mental models are carefully curated into two parts: Common-Core & Track Specific.

Each of the following meta-skills is taught as a course, supported with rich material ranging from epics and kavyas to cutting edge contemporary case studies and research papers from across the world. This core set lays the foundation for the track-specific meta-skills which add a substantial layer of specialisation with focus on track specific meta-skills.

COMMON CORE COURSES (16 WEEKS)

RTACHIT

Rtachit, referred to as Rtambara Prajna by Patanjali (Yogasutra 1.48) is the knowledge and ability to perceive truth in the state of single-pointed focus. This course aims for a more modest objective - to enable our learners to perceive Rta, the fundamental harmony and intelligent rhythm across domains and systems.

ANKVIKSKI

According to Kautilya, the great teacher of kings and emperors, Anviksiki is the lamp that illumines all knowledge (प्रदीपः सर्वविद्यानाम्), the means of all actions (उपायः सर्वकर्मणाम्) and the foundation of the entirety of Dharma (आश्रयः सर्वधर्माणां). The nearest equivalent of the metaskill Anviksiki, is critical inquiry. This metaskill allows the learner to think originally and independently, analyse and communicate the crux of an idea or concept, after peeling through layers of meanings and interpretations.

SANSKARA ABHYASA

Technology relentlessly beams the entire world into our palms today. While this is helpful at one level, it can also be debilitating at another if sufficient mental fortitude is not developed. Distraction has assumed epidemic proportions. The key skill required to overcome this challenge is to develop the ability of ‘quick attachment’ and ‘quick detachment’. In other words, the ability to make and unmake one-self. This is a deep science grounded in Yoga and Ayurveda.
ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME CURRICULUM

TRACK SPECIFIC COURSES (12 WEEKS)

ACADEMIC & THOUGHT
- Social and Political Theories
- Governance and Public Policy
- Research Methodology
- Academic and Research Writing

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY
- Social and Political Theories
- Community
- Mobilisation
- Negotiation
- Institution Building

POLITICAL & STRATEGIC
- Social and Political Theories
- Public Speaking
- Negotiation
- Campaign Management
- Fundraising

ELECTIVES & WORKSHOPS
Along with the core courses, there are electives of shorter durations and workshops. These electives support and complement our core meta-skills based approach, by adding knowledge areas and competencies. From Design Thinking, Yoga Abhyasa, textual study of Dharmasastras, Natyashastras and Smritis, to Creative Writing, they will be as varied and unique as our core courses.

ELEMENTS OF TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

SVADHYAYA
One of the Niyamas defined by Patanjali, Svadhyaya is the time provided for personal study, reflection, meditation, as well as performing mundane tasks such as completing assignments and preparing for presentations and discussions.

SAMVADA
Samvada refers to an elevated form of debate and discussion, where the objective is to uncover the truth and dispel doubts, rather than argue and win. Every day there will be time allocated for discussions that will be guided by our mentors. These sessions will help hone the skills and let the ideas take root in the minds of the learners.

YATRA
Our traditions and culture still thrive across the length and breadth of this land - where the Gitopadesa was given, where the innumerable saints, poets, gurus live and realise the one, all-pervading truth of existence; that land must be experienced in its raw beauty and spirit. A short term travel programme will help the learners take in the spirit of our native land, which has given rise to the oldest, continually existing culture in the world.
The academic calendar will follow a day order schedule. There will be a repeated cycle of seven day orders, named after the Saptasvaras (seven notes - Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni) of the Indian classical music. Madhyama (Ma) day order will be a no classroom day, except for the evening sessions and extra-curricular activities. On Nishada (Ni), the last day order, the mentors will guide the learners in the synthesis of the knowledge imparted during that cycle.
A typical day at Rashtram is filled with rituals, knowledge, introspection, conversation, as well as exercise, for physical and mental well being. We believe in holistic growth for the development of a well-rounded leader.

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<td>SAMVADA</td>
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Having stressed on the need to learn throughout life, we at Rashtram form a life-long bond with our Learners and provide them with support at every step in their careers:

**MENTORSHIP**
Rashtram Learners are provided with life-long Mentorship from the Faculty. We value relationships and make sure to provide direction to our Learners to the best of our intellect.

**NETWORKING**
Rashtram and VIF have amassed an incredible network of change-makers through our educational programmes and years of working with industry leaders. Rashtram Learners are incorporated in this network and are free to reap its benefits.

**INCUBATION**
Rashtram provides direction and support to the ideas of learners and help them pilot projects on the ground through various means.
CAREERS

Learners will go on to work in various sectors and bring about systemic change, which is necessary for the growth of the country.
Rashtram is located in the 25-acre state-of-the-art Rishihood University Campus in Sonipat, Haryana. The L2 Framework at Rashtram enables us to facilitate a modern day Gurukul - a residency model wherein learners and mentors live together. Students are encouraged to initiate and participate in special interest groups around literature, art, music, dance, pottery, and theatre during their stay in the campus.

Food
We promote the consumption of Satvik food that follows the principles of Ayurveda. The food provided at the campus follows these principles. Our menu changes according to the season.
Admissions Process

We conduct a multi-stage selection process to ensure that meritorious learners join our program and become future public leaders. To become a learner at Rashtram the applicant should possess these distinct qualities:

Who Should Apply?

Rashtram School of Public Leadership encourages you to apply for the inaugural batch of the Accelerator programme commencing in July 2020 across three domains - Academic, Political and Social.

An ideal applicant would be a Master’s degree holder to be eligible for the Academic domain and at least a Bachelor’s degree holder for the Political/Social domain, anywhere in the age group of 21-26 years, with a few years of domain experience in the specific track. However exceptional freshers and highly experienced professionals are encouraged to apply.

Someone who is spiritually grounded, with high moral character, personal integrity, and has a dream-action plan to work for Bharat is welcome to apply.