RURAL IMMERSION SPRING ,25
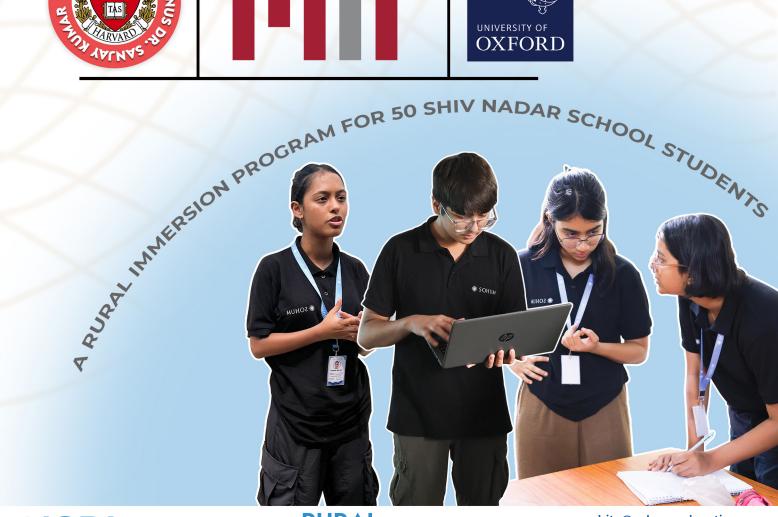
Science, Society & Governance
Led By Harvard Alumnus
MIT Professor, Oxford University Course Tutor

LED BY HARVARD ALUMNUS DR. SANJAY KUMAR

VE RI TAS — HARVARD

MIT

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A RURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR 50 SHIV NADAR SCHOOL STUDENTS

SOHUM

ISPI
Indian School of
Purpose & Impact

RURAL
IMMERSION
SPRING ,25

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RECIPIENT	PECASE-THE HIGHEST US GOVERNMENT AWARD FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

AI & AGRICULTURE MENTOR

SARANG NERKAR
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EX- RESEARCH SCIENTIST	HUMANISTIC INTELLIGENCE LAB, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

GOAL

To foster transformative learning experiences for high school students by immersing them in rural India's societal, cultural, and governance systems, enabling them to develop empathy, leadership, and problem-solving skills while contributing meaningfully to community development.

OBJECTIVES

Explore the Intersection of Science and Service

Encourage participants to understand the challenges of preventable blindness in rural India, actively contribute to organize and support screening camps, and participate in fundraisers for surgeries, blending scientific knowledge with humanitarian service.

Understand Local Governance

Equip students with an understanding of the Panchayat system: its roles, responsibilities, and projects, by engaging with local leaders and observing its impact on rural communities.

Cultural Exchange and Diversity Appreciation

Foster cross-cultural understanding and sensitivity by embracing the local culture, sharing meals with families, and participating in traditional practices.

Experience Technology in Agribusiness

Introduce students to cutting-edge advancements like AI and Humanistic Intelligence in agriculture, to highlight their impact on decision-making, pest management, and overall farm productivity.

Engage in Teaching and Mentoring

Develop students' leadership and mentoring skills by teaching practical English and public speaking to younger government school students fostering empowerment through education.

Build Narratives and Insights

Encourage reflective storytelling by documenting personal experiences, learning from the resilience of rural communities, and crafting narratives that inspire and inform others.

AREAS OF FOCUS

SCIENCE & SERVICE

According to WHO, approximately 1 in a 150 Indians suffer from blindness; nearly a million of these are children. In over half of the cases, the blindness is treatable or preventable; however, most of the children never receive medical attention due to a variety of reasons. Orbis International estimates that 60 percent of India's blind children die before reaching adulthood. Project Prakash, founded by Prof Pawan Sinha, Professor of Vision and Neuroscience at MIT, USA is an initiative to bring the power of sight to blind children in India and advance scientific understanding of brain plasticity and learning with the purpose of advocating for treating curable blindness irrespective of age. The work of Project Prakash can be better understood as a confluence of Science and Service. Participants will organize and be part of a screening camp and run a fundraiser to support eye surgeries of children from underprivileged backgrounds.

Orientation by MIT faculty and Project Prakash Founder Prof. Pawan Sinha (Online)
Total hours of social service: **20 hours** (During immersion and post immersion)

AI & HUMANISTIC INTELLIGENCE IN AGRICULTURE

Venture into the farms of the future with Oxford University Course Tutor!

Dive into the world of agribusiness, exploring how advanced technologies like Humanistic Intelligence are revolutionizing farming. Learn how AI enhances decision-making with real-time detection of pests, diseases, and deficiencies, while optimizing farm management practices.

TEACHING & MENTORING

Over three days, guide younger government school students through teaching public speaking and practical English skills and make a tangible difference in the community.

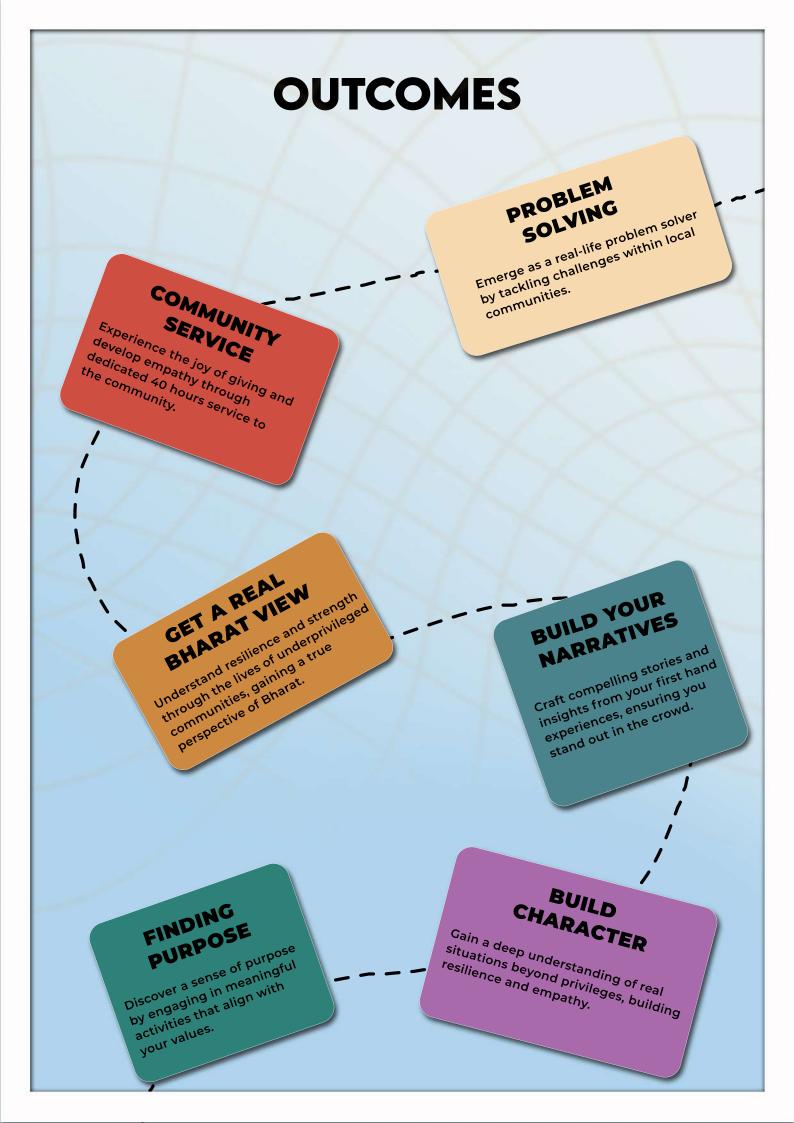Total hours of social service: **20 hours**

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Get up-close with local governance, meeting Panchayat leaders, exploring their roles, responsibilities, and projects, while understanding the Panchayat system's structure and its impact on the community.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Understand cultural diversity and to embrace the rich tapestry of Uttarakhand's culture, share meals with local people.

BUILDING STORY

Learn the art of crafting compelling narratives inspired by unique experiences & personal journeys of the participants during the program.

OUTCOMES

PROBLEM SOLVING

Emerge as a real-life problem solver by tackling challenges within local communities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Experience the joy of giving and develop empathy through dedicated 40 hours service to the community.

GET A REAL BHARAT VIEW

Understand resilience and strength through the lives of underprivileged communities, gaining a true perspective of Bharat.

BUILD YOUR NARRATIVES

Craft compelling stories and insights from your first hand experiences, ensuring you stand out in the crowd.

FINDING PURPOSE

Discover a sense of purpose by engaging in meaningful activities that align with your values.

BUILD CHARACTER

Gain a deep understanding of real situations beyond privileges, building resilience and empathy.

TIMELINE

7th
JAN' 25 — Application opens

7th
FEB' 25 — Round 1 Application deadline, depending upon seats availability

23rd
MAR' 25 — Departure from Delhi
Arrival in Dehradun
Program starts in Dehradun

30th
MAR' 25 — Program ends by lunch
Departure from Dehradun in the evening
Arrival in Delhi by night

PROGRAM FEE

47,000 INR (ALL INCLUSIVE)

The fee includes travel, meals, accommodation, safety & supervision. The program is residential.

CERTIFICATION

- Letter of recommendation from **Harvard Alumnus.**

- Certificate of completion, recognising your dedication and newly acquired skills from ISPI.

- Certificate of social service explaining your participation in organizing community eye camps in villages and fundraising for regaining eyesight of poor children.

APPLY NOW

For 9th-12th Graders

TESTIMONIALS

"The highlight of this program was our visit to Sahja Village, where we mentored young students. Guiding aspiring doctors, army officials, and gamers was a source of pride, leaving a lasting impression on both the students and me. This program shattered my preconceived notions about Bihar, allowing me to connect deeply with its community. The program's career advice and college application guidance were invaluable."

**Rajani Menon, Batch of 2024
The Heritage School, Vasant Kunj**

"This program has been transformative for me. The visit to Bhoomika Vihar was particularly impactful, as hearing the recovery stories of those now running their own businesses with Bhoomika Vihar's support was deeply touching. My time in Bihar completely changed my perceptions; living there for two weeks allowed me to truly appreciate the hospitality, decency, and cultural pride of the people."
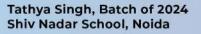
**Prajvee Singh, Batch of 2024
Jayshree Periwal Global School, Jaipur**

"The discussions and shared experiences with fellow participants were highlights of the program, and learning about panchayats and Bhoomika Vihar has left a lasting impact. Interacting with a part of Bihar I had never seen, and being warmly welcomed by the locals, opened my eyes to a new side of the state. The program taught me the value of sharing, bonding, and understanding."

**Tathya Singh, Batch of 2024
Shiv Nadar School, Noida**

"The most impactful part of my immersion experience was teaching and connecting with the eager-to-learn students, which was incredibly fulfilling. Visiting Bihar for the first time, I realised that all my preconceived notions were false. The people there are down-to-earth, calm, and well-mannered."

**Arjun Sharma, Batch of 2024
Somerville School, Noida**

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