
SEDS INDIA

NOMINATION FORM

VICE-CHAIR

KUNAL PANDEY

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1. What skills and qualities do you possess as an individual which makes you suitable for the Vice-Chair position?

There are various sets of skills that a person should possess to be suitable for the Vice Chair position. I have learnt a lot of thing from my previous experiences as a member of SEDS VIT. Few of them are mentioned below:

Experience:

- **Management Team Member for Team Vyadh European Rover Challenge 2016**
Being a part of a management team for such a big international competition taught me several things, most importantly, teamwork.
- **Mechanical Team Member and Team Manager for CANSAT 2017**
A leader must be dedicated towards his/her goal and be pragmatic, which are two qualities I learnt working for this team. Being persistent towards our goal is what helped us achieve the 2nd position in the Competition.
- **Finance Head SEDS VIT Projects**
Serving as a finance head for the year 2017-18, I have learned the importance of acquiring funds for the functioning of any team or chapter. Another important thing is utilizing the money in the most beneficial way, which requires rational decision making.
- **Co-ordinator for Indian Space Conclave 2017**
When you are part of something as big as a National Conference, each member needs a few qualities to be able to make the conference a success. I developed my communication skills and managerial skills as a member of the organising committee of ISC'17.
- **Organiser for Antariksh 2018**
Antariksh was something that helped me improve my planning skills. I came across many obstacles which affected the event flow thus pushing me to make instinctive decisions to benefit the majority.
- **Team Captain for European Rover Challenge 2018**
Managing and leading a team requires a leader to possess certain qualities to be a successful one and that is something that makes you good at team management. Being a leader you have to be ready to deal with the all kinds of problems which you are not even prepared for. I have gained most of my experience as a leader from this project.

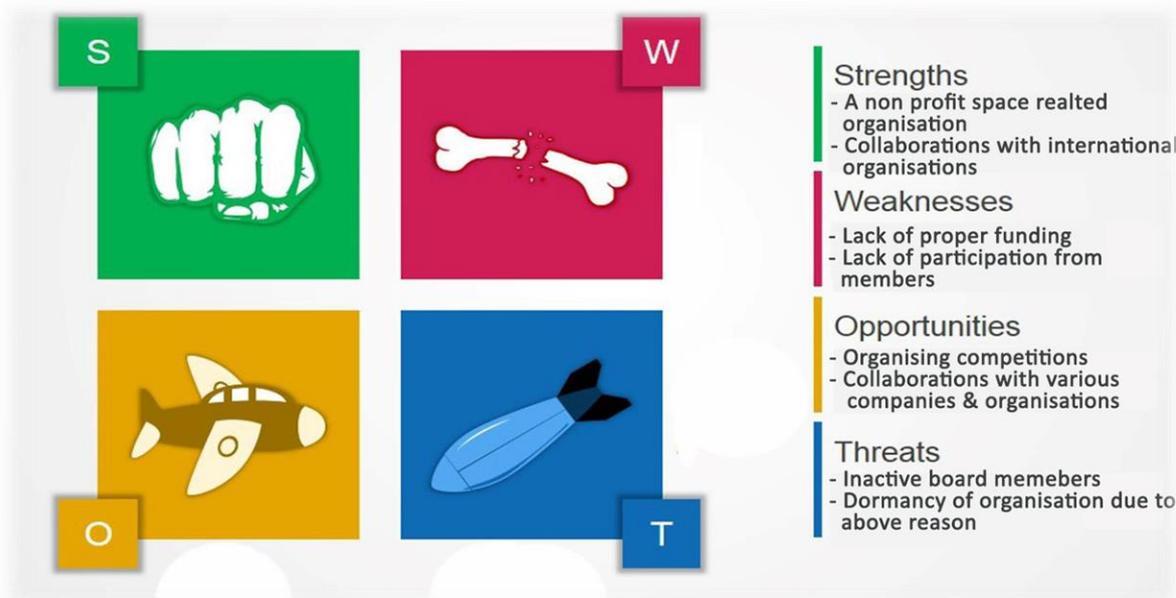
One of the most important development that has happened in the past two years of my tenure in SEDS, is the technical knowledge I have gained and I have spread as a member.

Through these experiences, I learnt about the functioning of SEDS VIT and SEDS India. Being a part of the SEDS VIT Projects board, I have had the experience of understanding and being a part of the decision-making procedure of SEDS India.

There as mentioned above, an ideal Vice Chair must possess the following qualities:

- Be a good team player
- Have rational decision-making capabilities
- Have good communication skills
- Analytical and planning skills
- Managerial skills

2. Assess the current situation of SEDS-INDIA using SWOT Analysis. Mention your strengths which can help us overcome the above-mentioned weakness.



Eradicating the Threats:

Being the Finance Head of SEDS VIT Projects for the year 2017-2018, I have learnt how to handle finances and funding. I believe my knowledge in this field and working well with the Treasurer of the SEDS India EB, we will be able to overcome the issue of funding. In dealing with sponsorship, an individual must have strong analytical and problem-solving skills which I believe I possess.

- Proper brochures and sponsorship benefits will be made, along with the various other documents for approaching a company.
- We can approach different

companies for Partnership with SEDS India. Companies with the CSR will be able to help us with funding.

- Approaching companies for a long-term partnership. Regular mails will be sent to different companies and start-ups for collaboration and after a successful collaboration we can propose the idea of a long-term partnership.
- Permanent fundraiser can be utilized for generating funds, it will be circulated throughout the network of our alumni, which will help us generate funds as an NPO without any specific motivation for the fundraiser.

Being a good team player and an approachable person, I will be able to maintain a good relation with all the members. With this I will be able to make sure that the board members give their 100% to the organisation. In addition to that, I can organize several events and competitions to engage the members thus improving their participation and contributing to member enrichment.

3. What are the ideas and opportunities which SEDS-INDIA needs to focus on? If elected to the position of your choice how would you execute them? Provide a proper timeline.

- **Collaborations with other SEDS India chapters**

SEDS India has chapters across the country with all members sharing common interests in space sciences. The main purpose of being a part of this chapter is to share our ideas about a given field and learn more about fields in space sciences we are not well-versed with. Through various events such as conferences, alumni meet and stargazings, the members can expand their knowledge. Various scientific milestones can also be celebrated together. An annual SEDS India project competition can be conducted, thus bringing together all its members. This will help in member enrichment and will also provide opportunities for the members to express themselves across a larger audience.

- **Explore and Expand**

As one of the objectives of SEDS is to spread the knowledge of space sciences and inspire others, expansion brings us one step towards our goal. With currently seven SEDS chapters established in India, the focus must shift towards initiation of new chapters in other parts of the country thus ensuring a wider reach of the organization. We can begin by reaching out to colleges and universities who have astronomy clubs but are unaware of our organization. Campus ambassadors from several colleges can be appointed and membership drives can be conducted with provisional benefits. The SEDS Onespace program can also help spread awareness in schools by being affiliated to their nearby SEDS chapter.

- **Video conferences and webinars with SEDS USA, UK, Canada, UAE**

Panel interviews can be organised with renowned SEDS alumni and telecasted. Live discussions and debates can also be conducted with other SEDS chapters across the globe. Online design and quiz competitions can be conducted to encourage participation from all corners of the world.

- **Building partnership with start-ups and government organizations and Funding**

For any organization, it is essential to have technical and business partners in the field to provide boost the publicity and reach of the organization and help us develop both technically and financially. The CSR policy of companies provides a pathway to acquire sponsorship. ISRO scientists now have a policy of sharing their knowledge with school and college students. This can also be used to our advantage. Since start-ups thrive on recognition, SEDS can provide a platform for the same in exchange for technical financial support. Partnership with organizations such as Chennai Astronomy Club (CAC) and Bangalore Astronomical Society (BAS), and companies like Tejraj & Co, will help in conducting various stargazing events and components such as telescopes and binoculars respectively. A permanent fundraiser can be initiated and individuals can donate through the website using a simple 'Donate Now' button. In this manner, SEDS India can acquire sponsorship by providing benefits to the companies for the required events.

TIMELINE



4. What are your Long-term Plans for SEDS-INDIA? How do you think you can work towards it and your plans are in line with the Long-term plans?

- Permanent partners and Funding

It has been observed that sponsorship is acquired only few weeks before the organization of a large-scale event or a project. By gaining partners, funding and publicity will not be of utmost priority, and the intricacies of the event or project can be focused upon. Through the permanent fundraiser, the organisation will always have funds present will not have to rush at the last minute. The organisation will also have enough funds for day-to-day activities.

- Member enrichment

Without the support and enthusiasm of its members, an organization has no purpose. Through the various conferences, stargazing sessions, competitions and discussions conducted, it will not only boost member participation but also help in enhancing their knowledge and people skills. The annual project competition and conducting events like Corona can help bring the members together.

- Organising Competitions

We can organise competitions like Rover Challenge Series. Recently Indian Rover Challenge was organised in collaboration with the Mars Society, and I have been in contact with the Indian Rover Challenge organisers and they are trying to make it a pan-India event and are offering other chapters/teams to organise the event from next year onwards, we can grab this opportunity and take the first step to organise competitions as SEDS India. Once we start with organising one competitions we can come up with new ideas for organising regular competitions like SEDS USA.

- Design Challenges

Design challenges/competitions are something that we can organise without any large requirement of funding. With the help of our network we can create a judging panel and then call for Proposals for various design challenges on different space related topics.

- Developing the Onespace Program

The main motive of SEDS is to spread the knowledge of space sciences and inspire young minds to take interests in the same. Conducting science exhibitions and organizing mini field trips to observatories will help in expanding our outreach division as well. Approaching schools with the idea of affiliation to this organization can help us expand our Onespace program near other SEDS chapters in the country.

5. What are the qualities and individual traits you would like to have in the SEDS-INDIA staff? How would you ensure smooth and regular communication between the SEDS INDIA Board and the Staff considering they will be present in different chapters?

- A SEDS India staff member should have demonstrated good work ethics and leadership qualities.
- A staff member must be reliable. He/she must be someone the team can confide in and trust. He/she must support the team in all the decisions the team members collectively take.
- They must be an efficient worker. Although he/she may be skilled, they should be able to complete work in the allotted time with maximum accuracy and closeness to the desired result.
- A team member must be willing to work with any team in any work environment. In other words, he/she must be adaptable.

- He/she must be diligent and know how to work within given deadlines.

6. CASE STUDY

Vice-Chair is also responsible for Financial investments of SEDS-India, SEDS-India being a not for profit society gets most of its revenue from Membership Fees, where do you plan to invest it and also where should it be utilized the most?

We should utilize our funds in funding projects and conferences, but as learnt from my previous experience as a Finance Head, prioritizing your investment according to the importance of the things at hand and to what extent that money is going to help the cause is primary. For example: If a team already has a successful fundraiser in progress, then sponsoring them won't be a rational decision. While, if a conference or any event is suffering because of lack of funds, investing money in that conference will be fruitful.

Apart from this, the money should be invested and utilized on things which cater towards the development and exploration of space because that is what SEDS stands for.

The member benefits are something we should also work on as the current members are not completely satisfied. Investing money in conducting small scale events which help in member enrichment is important as we might start losing out on members if we do not meet expectations.