## SEDS INDIA ELECTIONS-2018 Nomination Form – Chair

Name: Pragya Sinha

College: Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore

Contact Number: +91 9003753028

E-Mail Address: pragya.seds@gmail.com

## **Content:**

- 1. Every SEDS member has their own unique set of qualities. Which unique set of qualities do you think will assist you the most while presiding over the organization as Chair of SEDS India.
- 2. Being able to assess one's responsibilities is a mark of a true leader. Name the responsibilities you are expected to undertake as one of the leaders of the organization
- 3. State a minimum of two experiences from your past which you believe will help in troubleshooting unforeseen circumstances as Chair of SEDS India.
- 4. Assess the current situation of SEDS India with the help of a SWOT Analysis. a. Which of the above strengths would you use to realize the true potential of the opportunities that lie before SEDS India? b. How do you work your way around the above weaknesses and thus, neutralize the threats that lie before SEDS India?
- 5. Where do you see SEDS India in 5 years? Provide a timeline for the upcoming year which you believe will push SEDS India closer in realizing this 5-year dream
- 6. CASE STUDY: SEDS India is an organization that governs the functioning of other chapters; SEDS India on its own can conduct competitions and conferences along with other chapters. What would you conduct and how will you ensure all the chapters are working coherently.

1. Every SEDS member has their own unique set of qualities. Which unique set of qualities do you think will assist you the most while presiding over the organization as Chair of SEDS India?

Being the Chair of one of the biggest space-related student organization in India is definitely a task of enormous responsibility. I believe I am a team player and hold the capability to lead the team whenever required. I am honest, a positive minded person and can analyze the challenges effectively hence coming up with a practical solution. My major qualities include:

Open minded: Different people **Positive** Team player: A attitude: | do things good leader is Hardworking: I **Determined** believe I am a differently and the open who is am a person and focus: I am person with a that doesn't a good team who believes in player. A leader a highly positive mean he or she hard work is the determined attitude. Even if won't do the job should be able key to success. person. I do not things go wrong right or as well. to work Therefore I am stop before the I look for efficiently with A leader should also ready to desired goal is something be open minded its own team work towards achieved positive or make to listen to and creates a the goal. something good other people better work out of it and implement environment. their ideas too.

I have been part of SEDS-VIT for over 2 yrs, I have gained a lot of technical experience through various events and as working as Public relations manager under SEDS-VIT board which I feel can prove to be a big asset to SEDS India.

Moreover I am fully aware of the working procedure of SEDS India and in-depth knowledge about the chapter's internal and external affairs, its strengths and weaknesses due to my tenure as Chapter Affairs Manager under SEDS India Staff.

I have in the past worked with the paramount enthusiasm in SEDS VIT and will continue to do so in SEDS India.

2. Being able to assess one's responsibilities is a mark of a true leader. Name the responsibilities you are expected to undertake as one of the leaders of the organization.

The responsibilities I am expected to undertake as one of the leaders of the organization will include:

- Initiate talk with existing inactive chapters and provide them with incentives and member benefits so they can become active and participate regularly in all the events. The immediate priority which I think is to get more active participation from all these colleges to fulfill the purpose of "exploration and development of space".
- Ensure proper communication and bridge the gap between SEDS-India chapters
- Publicize SEDS forum among all the chapters and encourage technical discussions.
- Establish all the three division namely: Core, Outreach, Projects in all the SEDS chapters and ensure their proper functioning.
- Promote research culture among all the chapters and encourage them to do so.
- Maintaining proper documents and record which can be handed over to next board for their proper functioning.
- Expansion and publicity: Despite SEDS India being one of the few nationwide space related organization, it currently has member chapter in only a handful of engineering colleges. Expansion is one of the major issues in hand that needs to be looked into.
- Providing a framework consisting of workflow, responsibilities for all the people, documentation templates, event presentations from other chapters, project ideas and a member database for easy communication.
- Establish contact with all SEDS alumni
- Provide world class video conferences and lectures for development of all the members though the process.
- Collaborating with External organizations like: Indian astrobiology research centre, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore etc and space entrepreneurs to provide our members with projects and internships.
- Strengthen relationship with various other SEDS chapter in the world like SEDS-USA, SEDS-UK, SEDS-Japan etc.

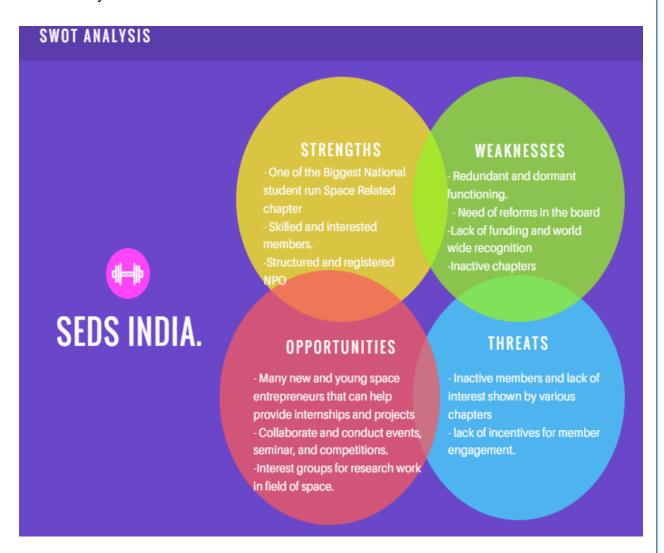
3. State a minimum of two experiences from your past which you believe will help in troubleshooting unforeseen circumstances as Chair of SEDS India.

Uncertainty is the basic element of any task and I believe a good leader is the one that can prevent a bad situation from getting worse. Prior experiences which show I can efficiently troubleshoot unforeseen circumstances are:

- ISC'17: During ISC'17 I was part of Paper Presentation team but during ISC'17, Registration Team was facing trouble registering and managing money from the participants. I took this work in my hand and effectively managed the situation.
- Antariksh'18: During Antariksh'18 there was a dire need of a platform for the publicity of sponsors as sponsor benefit and for fund raising apart from social media. For this purpose I developed a website to carter the situation.
- Star Party, Gravitas'17: During star party in our college we had some problem with the management regarding night permissions of female students. I took the problem in hand and resolved the issue.

- 4. Assess the current situation of SEDS India with the help of a SWOT Analysis.
  - a. Which of the above strengths would you use to realize the true potential of the opportunities that lie before SEDS India?
  - b. How do you work your way around the above weaknesses and thus, neutralize the threats that lie before SEDS India?

**SWOT** Analysis:



- a. The major strength we have in our members. To unleash the true potential of SEDS India we need to focus on member enrichment. This can only happen if our members are continuously involved and learning
  - Steps we can take for member engagement include:

- to provide an online platform which could help to discuss the various aspects of each individual chapter on a common platform. This will help the growth of the chapter and SEDS-India as a whole.
- Request for a workshop/event on a particular topic in their respective chapter.
- Preference or Blocking the Seats for events conducted by member chapters
- Personal account for the members
- Blog writing open to all
- Regular quiz among all the chapters
- Regular star gazing sessions
- Internship opportunity provided by SEDS India.
- b. Changes don't come overnight. It might take more than a year to accomplish certain task but it's important to initiate the process.
  - The board needs to develop a set of method for most of the tasks that need to be done
    - This will ensure that everyone in the board will know what to do do and how to do
    - Also this will ensure that the future boards have a guideline of how to go about their responsibilities
  - The board and staff needs to have equal representation by members of all the different chapters
  - The Council of chapters needs to be active and keep the board and other chapters updated about their chapter activities

## 5. Where do you see SEDS India in 5 years? Provide a timeline for the upcoming year which you believe will push SEDS India closer in realizing this 5-year dream

SEDS India is a renowned organization with high potential for growth. SEDS India can reach great height if we channelize all the potential towards betterment of SEDS as a whole

My vision for SEDS India in 5 years:

- Increase in number of existing chapter and not just
- A permanent sponsor for SEDS-India. This will ensure that SEDS has a constant income for all its regular need and also the invested capital can be transferred when seen fit to fund conferences and projects
- All the funds received from the memberships can be invested back in the chapter to enhance the working of the chapter and hence increase the overall efficiency of SEDS India
- Research culture among SEDS members and publishing papers
- SEDS-India is worldwide recognized and an integral part of SEDS Earth.
- Developed SEDS Alumni Network. Increased interaction between members and alumni. Video Conferences with alumni as a platform to bring all SEDS India members in contact with each other.
- Collaboration with various space agencies like team Indus, Earth2Orbit, Dhruva Space, ARDL, Bellatrix aerospace etc that provide our members with internship opportunities
- Yearly issue of SEDS-India Magazine and monthly Newsletter.
- Active social media handles like LinkedIn, Facebook, Youtube etc.
- Series of guest lectures and video conferences for the benefit of the members of the chapter.
- Active participation of chapters on the CoC (Council of Chapters) and on the SEDS-India forum
- Website of all the chapters updated and linked to SEDS-India Website.
- Personal Member login and discussion page.
- Active Blog page.
- Proper documentation on all fronts
- Coordinated functioning of core, outreach and project division in all the chapters.
- More participation in International Space related competition like Cansat, ERC, URC, SAUS, International Space Settlement Design Competition etc.
- Outreach work of SEDS-India is extended to orphanages also and more and more schools are enrolled.

## Year Plan:

June

- Video conference with all the board members to give them access to SEDS India mail and discuss the By-Laws and chapter Initiation Kit
- Create CoC (Council of Chapters) group for bidirectional contact between all the chapters

July

- Discuss the staff position and prepare questionnaire for new staff position like Webmaster, OneSpace Manager etc
- Appoint SEDS India staff.
- Encourage Blog writing among chapters

August

- Assign task for monthy Newsletter
- Approach various space clubs for affiliation to SEDS-India

• September

- Work on SEDS India Website and provide chapter with the task of developing their website
- Call for Conference Proposal

October

- Celebrate World Space week with a serious of Space talks and competition among various chapters
- •Start the work to find a permanent sponsor

November

- Annual Star Party with all the chapters
- Setup to gain funds and donations

December

• Have a Projects expo among all the chapters

January

- Workshop on some space related software
- Approach companies to provide internship opportunity.

<u>Fe</u>burary

• Hold SEDS India National Conference

March

- Corona Space quiz
- SEDS Earth Webinar

April

- Final documenation
- Video conference by SEDS Advisory Member

May

 Video Conference/event or workshop BY ISRO professional (HAM Radio) 6. CASE STUDY: SEDS India is an organization that governs the functioning of other chapters; SEDS India on its own can conduct competitions and conferences along with other chapters. What would you conduct and how will you ensure all the chapters are working coherently?

SEDS-India is a organization capable of conducting major conferences. Some of the major conferences include SINC'16 and SEDSIC'15 which were a major success. If I, as the chair had the chance to conduct such a conference the process will be as follows:

The first will involve call for abstract from all the SEDS Chapter explaining their budget and proposal for the conference. After holding the meeting and deciding best proposal we can move forward with that.

The Second step will involve deciding the theme and style of the conferences. Various styles can include:

- World Internet Café: This is a type of unconference. In this the process begins with the first of three or more twenty minute rounds of conversation for the small group seated around a table. At the end of the twenty minutes, each member of the group moves to a different new table. Each round is prefaced with a question specially crafted for the specific context. This provides the participant with a free environment to discuss a topic.
- Table Teams: Develop a connection between attendees by turning your table assignments into teams. Kick your event off by having each team create a unique name and sign for their table. From there, we can implement activities like team projects, group discussions, and problem-solving scenarios related to space.
- SpaceUp: SpaceUp is a space unconference, where participants decide the topics, schedule, and structure of the event. Unconferences have been held about technology, science, transit, and even cupcakes, but this is the first one focused on space exploration.

Various themes for the conference can include:

- A conference focusing on establishing a sustainable space economy and addressing other challenges in order to open up the space frontier for human settlement.
- A conference that brings like minds together for one reason—advancing humanity's understanding and ability to use satellite technology.

• An event that features a forum for thought-leaders under 35 to share their ideas and advance their careers in space

The third and the most important step would be funding for such a large scale event. For any conference to run successfully, availability of monetary fund's is a basic requirement. This can be approached in two ways: In kind or in cash sponsorship from major firms and organizations.

There are many other requirements too like finalization of speakers and all the permission and other ground work that goes into making a conference a successful one.

To ensure all the chapters are working coherently this can be done by:

At all major conferences and competitions where SEDS India plays an active role the Council of chapter can nominate members from their respective chapters to represent them at the conference or competition. The Point of contact from all the various chapters will make sure all their ideas are heard and this ways all the chapters will have their say. The Council of chapters can regularly have video/tele conferences to discuss and suggest amendments to the various SEDS India decision regarding the conference.