CLAWS FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

General Format style: Times New Roman, 12 font size, 1.5 spacing

Research Proposal should be around 13-15 pages inclusive of all the sections given below:

1. **Tentative Title of the research proposal:** Should be specific and indicative of the exact topic the researcher wants to work on. Time period needs to be mentioned for a case study based topic.

   Example:

   Topic a) **Land Border Disputes and Security Dimensions: A Case Study of Sino-Indian Borders, 1962-2021**

   Topic b) **Sustainable Development in India: A Study on Three Pillar Basic Model (as it is globally a new concept developed in 1987 and the first part of the title already suggests that it is India specific, hence time period in the title is not required in this case)**

2. **Introduction:** introduces and summarises the subject matter in the thesis. Should start with basic definition of the concept available and further on discusses the crux of the thesis. **(At least 2-3 pages).**

3. **Literature Review:** Discusses and reviews the various essential literatures available on the subject. This section is indicative of the researcher's understanding on the subject and therefore needs to be crafted well. **Literature Review is generally divided into 3-4 themes (can be more based on the topic)** so that literature on each part of the title is discussed and referred to. **The section should be in sync with the research questions. (Minimum 3-4 pages).**

Example: For the first tentative title – Themes chosen are as follows:- a) **Defining Boundaries and Land Border Disputes** (globally), b) **Concept of Security and the Indian context**, c) **Sino-Indian Border Disputes**

For the Second tentative title – Themes are as follows:- a) **Concept of Sustainable Development**, b) **Sustainability in India**, c) **Models of Sustainability and the Three Pillar Basic Model**, d) **Socio-economic conditions in India**, e) **Environmental Issues in India**….

Format:

'Sustainable development' has become one of the most prominent phrases in development discourse and, Sharachchandra M. Lele foresaw that it was "poised to become the development paradigm of the 1990s" (1991:607), and in many ways it did. The capacity of the phrase to restructure development discourse and to reorganize development practice is a reflection of its power and influence. The place of sustainable development in the development discourses was assured in the 1990s when it became the driving force behind the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992 (UNCED, or the 'Earth Summit'). This was attended by representatives of over 180 governments, most of whom made public proclamation to support environmental-sensitive economic development. The UNCED also emerged as the forum for a vast range of non-governmental organizations, many of them from the First World, which strove both to capture media headlines and to influence intergovernmental debate through the parallel Global Forum (Holmberg et al. 1993, Chatterjee and Finger 1994).

It is advisable to use in-text referencing in the literature review. In-text referencing example: after quoting an argument by author/scholar ABC XYZ (for instance if ABC is the first name and XYZ is the surname), then in the bracket provide the details of the author as (XYZ i.e. surname, 1999 i.e. year of publication: 112 i.e. page number if available).

Thus, the in-text reference in the above case will be: (XYZ, 1999: 112).

By the end of literature, when all the themes are thoroughly discussed, **the last paragraph should mention the research gap the research proposal intends to fill in**. Mention in brief about it in terms of relevance and specificity of the research proposal as in what makes the study unique?

4. **Definition, Scope and Rationale of the Study:** This section gives the details of **definition of the concept/term** that the researcher intends to use in his/her research with providing the reason for its selection. **For example:** there are various definitions of sustainable development, however, Brundtland Commissions' definition is used in the study as it is widely acceptable, inclusive and provides leverage to expansion of the term in various fields and dimensions. (**all three combined in half a page or in 400-500 words)**

Scope of study: means what the study intends to cover and what it is focusing on. **Example:** What sectors the study is focusing if the topic is **Land Border Disputes and Security Dimensions: A Case Study of Sino-Indian Borders, 1962-2021.** Does the study focus all the sectors or borders areas in India-China context or specific ones, does the study take in to consideration all the disputes and standoffs that have taken place or specific ones. These all are mentioned in the scope of the study.

Rationale of Study: What is the relevance of the study and how does it contribute to the existing literature on the subject. Mention **limitations of the study** if any. For instances, unavailability of secondary sources (books, articles, monographs, chapters, web articles and commentaries etc) on the subject as the research is unique is a limitation. Not being able to go for a field trip because of various reasons is a limitation. Non-availability of data due to classified nature of the study is a limitation. Not knowing a particular language necessary for certain study is a limitation to the study.

5. **Research Questions:** provide 5-6 research questions in point wise form that will provide the framework of the study. **Example**: **If Topic b)** is the research title.

- What is sustainable development and what is sustainability in Indian context?
- How and why is sustainable development important for India?
- What has been the socio-economic condition in India since independence?
- What is the status of environmental degradation in India and what are the measures to combat it?
- What are the prominent environmental issues in the country and policies at work
- How effective is the all-inclusive approach for overall development?
- What is Vision 2030 and what is the status of India in terms of sustainable development?

6. **Hypothesis:** The research may include **2-3 hypotheses**. A hypothesis is not a statement but an assumption that the researcher puts in place while conducting the research and tests these hypotheses for validity by the end of the study. Example: If Topic B.

a) Political will, concentration of power and unequal distribution of resources, gender inequality etc are major hindrances in India's drive for sustainable development.

b) To achieve Vision 2030, India will have to focus on grass-root level development and by employing an all-inclusive approach to include local populations in its sustainability drive.

c) Campaigns like *Sabka haath, sabka vikas* are the preliminary steps in achieving sustainable development goals but they are underutilised and true only in theory.

7. **Methodology:** Discusses the methodology and methods to be used in the proposed study: whether the research will be Quantitative (based on data mining and data analysis/ Qualitative (based on arguments and deriving from various studies or

instances). Whether the research will be historical in nature or descriptive (if is based on narration of events and there is dearth of data on the subject).

Methods: Will the study use primary/secondary sources, probable interviews or field work based study, usage of various tools to analyse data: correlation, use of SPSS and Excel, use of infographics.

Primary Sources in International Studies: Data collected on personal field surveys and interviews, all government sources (all ministry documents of India or any country of study). **Please note: Think Tank studies are not government sources,** all international agencies sources and all UN sources, such as UNDP, UNGA, UNDESA, UNRWA, WHO, IMF, IAEA, ILO, etc are regarded as primary data.

8. **Tentative Chapterisation:** Provide not less than **5-6 tentative chapters** based on your topic. Just the title of chapters with brief explanation is required. Should include **Introduction** and **Conclusion**s as separate chapters.

9. **References: Often ignored, this is an important part of research and provides legitimacy to the study.**

Provide important references on your study, at proposal stage 3-4 pages of references is sufficient.

Reference style: Should be in alphabetical order. Primary sources should be marked by asterisk mark (*).

For books:

Surname, First Name (year of publication), *Title of the Book in Italics*, (Place of Publication: Name of Publisher)

Eg. Morgenthau, Hans (1946), *Scientific Man Versus Power Politics*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

For Journal articles:
Surname, First Name (year of publication), "Title of Article in quotes", Journal Name in Italics, Publications details, Issue and Number, page numbers.

Eg. Miller, Genevieve (1962), "'On Airs, Waters, and Places' in history", Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Issue 17, no. 1: 129–140.

For Newspaper/Web articles/Commentaries:

Surname, First Name (year of publication), "Article title in double quotes", Name of Newspaper in Italics, date of publication, Available on: provide the full link, Accessed on ---provide the date of access.

Eg. Anthony, Navin (2019), "Poverty Index: India Rank 49", *The Week*, 17 August, Available on: https://www.theweek.in/theweek/cover/2019/08/17/poverty-index-indiarank-49.html, accessed on 26 May 2020.

If author name is not available in case of newspapers:
The Hindu (2018), 'India Ranks 177 out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index', New Delhi, 24 January, Available at: https :/ /www.the hindu.com/ sci-tech/energy –and environment /India -ranks -177 -out -of- 180 -in -environmental -performance -index /article2251 3016.ece, Accessed on accessed 23 February 2020.

For Primary Sources:

*Community data.gov.in (2016), "Average Milk Yield from Indigenous/Non-Descript Cows in India During 2014-15", October 14, 2016, Government of India, URL: https://community.data.gov.in/average-milk-yield-from-indigenousnon-descript-cows-in-india-during-2014-15/, Accessed on 15 October 2017.

*Directorate of Economics and Statistics (2011), "Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2011", Department of Agriculture, Cooperation of Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, URL: http://eands.dacnet.nic.in/latest_20011.htm, Accessed on 15 October 2017.

*FAO (1996), "Rome Declaration of World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action" (Rome: FAO, 1996), www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.HTM, Accessed on 15 October 2017.

For Personal Interviews:

(Use asterisk marks as primary source).

Surname, First Name of the interviewee (year of interview taken), Mention personal interview with the person in his/her official capacity, name of the organisation, date and year.

Eg. *Al-Kilani, Mutasim (2018), Personal Interview with Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Amman on 24 March 2018.