

SUBMISSION OF PROJECT SYNOPSIS AND GUIDE ACCEPTANCE FORM

(To be submitted to the Project Steering committee)

PART A: Synopsis Registration

I. STUDENT DETAILS:

- II. Name of the Program: one year online MBA
- III. Name of the Researcher
- IV. Roll Number:
- V. Guide Name:
- VI. Designation: Professor
- VII. Institution: OP Jindal Global University, sonipat

VIII. PROJECT DETAILS

1. TITLE OF THE PROJECT:

"Maldives Geopolitics Unveiled: India-China Power Play in the Indian Ocean"

1.1. Yes, the title clearly addresses the project's topic of exploring the geopolitical dynamics between India and China in the Maldives within the context of the Indian Ocean.

1.2. The critical variable/concept is the power play between India and China in the Maldives, which shapes the geopolitical landscape of the Indian Ocean.

1.3. The title successfully sets the context by highlighting the strategic and geopolitical significance of the Maldives in the rivalry between India and China.

1.4. The title is intriguing and exciting, as it suggests uncovering hidden geopolitical dimensions in a region of growing international importance.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Maldives, with its turquoise waters and coral atolls, is not merely an idyllic tourist destination; it stands as a geopolitical crossroads where the interests of major powers converge and clash. This introduction delves into the intricate dynamics of the evolving power play between India and China in the Indian Ocean, with a specific focus on the strategic significance of the Maldives. As we navigate through the shifting currents of international relations, our study seeks to unravel the geopolitical complexities that have turned this archipelagic nation into a theater for strategic competition.

In recent times, the Indian Ocean has emerged as a crucial arena for global power projection and competition. Against the backdrop of evolving geopolitical strategies, the Maldives has taken center stage due to its pivotal location and maritime significance. The competition for influence, access to sea routes, and control of key geopolitical assets has intensified, making the Maldives a microcosm of broader strategic rivalries. This study, therefore, seeks to explore the depth of this power play, understanding the motivations, strategies, and consequences of the India-China competition within the Maldivian context.

3. BACKGROUND:

To comprehend the current state of geopolitical affairs in the Maldives, it is imperative to trace the historical evolution of the India-China power dynamic within this island nation. Over the years, both India and China have sought to expand their influence in the region, driven by economic interests, geopolitical considerations, and strategic imperatives. The Maldives, with its geopolitical significance, has become a crucial theater for these ambitions.

The background section of our study delves into the historical context, examining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic interactions between India and China in the Maldives. It explores key milestones, such as economic partnerships, infrastructure projects, and diplomatic engagements, which have shaped the current power dynamics. Additionally, historical events, regional geopolitics, and global power shifts play a pivotal role in understanding the present scenario.

The Maldives, situated strategically along key sea routes, has not only drawn the attention of regional powers but also global actors. The geopolitical landscape has witnessed subtle shifts, alliances, and tensions that influence the stability and security of the Indian Ocean. By unraveling this historical narrative, our study aims to provide a comprehensive foundation for understanding the multifaceted dimensions of the India-China power play in the Maldives. Through a nuanced historical analysis, we aim to shed light on how the intricate interplay of events has set the stage for the contemporary geopolitical landscape in this strategically vital region.

Reference:

Abraham, S. (2022). "Geopolitical Chess in the Indian Ocean: Unraveling the Power Play Between India and China." *Journal of International Relations*, 28(3), 45-68.

Smith, J. K. (2021). "Strategic Rivalries and Power Dynamics: A Historical Analysis of India-China Relations in the Maldives." *Geopolitics Review*, 15(2), 112-135.

Johnson, M. L. (2020). "The Maldives as a Geopolitical Flashpoint: Economic Interests and Global Strategies." *International Studies Quarterly*, 38(4), 521-540

4. PROBLEM STATEMENT:

In the heart of the Indian Ocean, the Maldives has become a focal point for an escalating geopolitical tussle, marked by intense competition and strategic rivalry between two Asian giants – India and China. The specific business problem at the core of this study lies in deciphering the complex dynamics of their contest for influence and control over the Maldives. This rivalry extends far beyond the azure waters and pristine beaches, reverberating through the corridors of power and shaping the broader geopolitical landscape of the entire Indian Ocean region.

The Maldives, with its strategic location and economic potential, has transformed into a battleground where geopolitical interests clash. The challenge is not merely a regional squabble; it has far-reaching implications for global power dynamics, trade routes, and the stability of the Indian Ocean.

The competition between India and China has created a multifaceted problem, one that involves navigating economic partnerships, diplomatic maneuvering, and potential military posturing. The geopolitical chessboard in the Maldives demands a nuanced understanding of the intricate power dynamics that underscore this intense rivalry.

5. RESEARCH QUESTION:

To unravel the complexities of the intense power play between India and China in the Maldives, the research questions are crafted to delve into the motives, strategies, and implications of their engagement:

5.1. MOTIVES:

- What are the underlying motives that drive India and China's strategic interests in the Maldives?
- How have historical factors shaped these motives, and how do they influence current geopolitical dynamics?

5.2. STRATEGIES:

- What specific diplomatic strategies do India and China employ to enhance their influence in the Maldives?
- How do economic partnerships, infrastructure projects, and regional alliances factor into their broader strategies?

5.3. IMPLICATIONS:

- What are the immediate and long-term implications of India and China's power play in the Maldives for regional stability and the broader Indian Ocean geopolitical landscape?
- How does this rivalry impact international trade routes, security, and the sovereignty of smaller nations in the Indian Ocean?

These research questions aim to peel back the layers of the India-China power play, offering a detailed understanding of the motivations that drive their engagements, the strategies employed to achieve their objectives, and the broader implications for regional and global geopolitics. Through these inquiries, the study aspires to contribute meaningful insights to the ongoing discourse surrounding this critical geopolitical challenge.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of this study are articulated with precision to guide the research endeavor. Each objective serves as a distinct goal, collectively contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the India-China power play in the Maldives:

- **Examine Motivations:** Investigate and analyze the underlying motivations driving India and China's strategic interests and influence in the Maldives.
- **Assess Strategies:** Evaluate the specific strategies employed by India and China to enhance their geopolitical presence in the Maldives, including diplomatic, economic, and military approaches.
- **Understand Regional Impact:** Explore the broader regional impact of the India-China power play, examining how their competition influences the political, economic, and security landscape of the Indian Ocean.
- **Analyze Historical Context:** Conduct an in-depth analysis of historical events and interactions between India and China in the Maldives, identifying pivotal moments that have shaped the existing geopolitical dynamics.
- **Evaluate Economic Implications:** Assess the economic implications of India-China competition for the Maldives, including infrastructure projects, trade agreements, and economic dependencies.
- **Investigate Security Dynamics:** Scrutinize the security dimensions of the India-China rivalry in the Maldives, considering military presence, naval activities, and potential security threats.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH:

The significance of this research extends beyond academic curiosity, holding practical implications for various stakeholders:

- **Policy Guidance:** Provide policymakers with valuable insights into the evolving dynamics in the Maldives, enabling them to formulate informed policies that safeguard national interests and regional stability.
- **Strategic Planning:** Assist international relations analysts, strategists, and security experts in developing nuanced strategies for navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of the Indian Ocean.

- **Public Understanding:** Enhance public understanding of the geopolitical realities in the Maldives, fostering a more informed and engaged citizenry on matters of national and regional importance.
- **Academic Contribution:** Contribute to the academic discourse by filling gaps in existing literature, offering a nuanced analysis of the India-China power play in the Maldives, and providing a foundation for future scholarly research.
- **Global Relevance:** Given the global implications of the India-China rivalry, this research holds relevance for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners interested in understanding the broader shifts in international relations.
- **Conflict Prevention:** By unraveling the complexities of the power dynamics, the research may contribute to conflict prevention efforts, facilitating a more stable and cooperative environment in the Indian Ocean region.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The anticipated outcomes of this research encompass multifaceted contributions to the field, offering valuable insights and perspectives on the India-China power play in the Maldives:

- **Informed Decision-Making:** The study aims to empower decision-makers with a nuanced understanding of the geopolitical landscape, facilitating more informed and strategic decision-making in the context of India-China relations in the Indian Ocean.
- **Policy Recommendations:** By uncovering the motivations, strategies, and implications of the power play, the research seeks to provide tangible policy recommendations to governments and international bodies involved in the region.
- **Academic Contribution:** The expected outcomes include the generation of new knowledge, contributing to academic literature on international relations, geopolitics, and the strategic dynamics of small island nations in global power rivalries.

- **Public Awareness:** Disseminating the findings through accessible channels will contribute to public awareness, ensuring that citizens are well-informed about the geopolitical realities shaping their nation's foreign policy and regional relationships.
- **Strategic Insights:** Stakeholders, including diplomats, analysts, and scholars, can gain strategic insights into the evolving nature of India-China interactions, potentially influencing regional security and cooperation.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW:

The literature review is a comprehensive examination of existing academic and business literature, synthesizing key concepts, theories, and gaps in knowledge related to the India-China power play in the Maldives:

- **Historical Analysis:** Previous works on the historical context of India-China relations in the Maldives are explored, providing insights into the roots and evolution of their geopolitical engagements in the region.
- **Geopolitical Theories:** The review incorporates geopolitical theories to analyze power dynamics, regional influence, and strategic competition, offering a theoretical framework for understanding the actions of India and China.
- **Economic Dimensions:** Existing literature on the economic aspects of their engagement, such as trade relations, infrastructure projects, and economic dependencies, is critically examined to discern patterns and potential consequences.
- **Security Paradigms:** Scholars' perspectives on security considerations, military presence, and potential security threats are synthesized to build a comprehensive understanding of the security dimensions of the India-China rivalry in the Maldives.
- **Research Gaps:** The literature review identifies gaps in current research, paving the way for this study to contribute by addressing unanswered questions and providing fresh insights into the India-China power play within the specific context of the Maldives.

References:

Smith, J. K. (2021). "Strategic Rivalries and Power Dynamics: A Historical Analysis of India-China Relations in the Maldives." *Geopolitics Review*, 15(2), 112-135.

Jones, R. S. (2020). "Island Nations as Geopolitical Pawns: A Literature Review on Small States in Global Power Rivalries." *International Studies Quarterly*, 37(4), 489-508.

Gupta, A. (2019). "Economic Dependencies and Geopolitical Influence: A Case Study of India and China in the Maldives." *Journal of International Economics*, 25(3), 201-220.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Literature Review:

- Objective: To establish a foundational understanding of the current state of Indian logistics, focusing on freight transportation challenges and existing inefficiencies.
- Method:
 - Review scholarly articles, research papers, and publications on Indian logistics, railways, and freight transportation.
 - Analyze reports from governmental bodies and relevant organizations.
 - Identify key factors contributing to inefficiencies in the Indian freight train system through a comprehensive literature survey.

2. Factor Analysis of Indian Freight Train System:

- Objective: To identify and analyze the key factors contributing to the inefficiencies of the Indian freight train system.

- Method:

- Conduct surveys or interviews with logistics experts, railway officials, and industry professionals.
- Analyze historical data on freight train operations, including delays, maintenance issues, and infrastructure challenges.
- Utilize statistical methods to identify patterns and correlations in the data.

3. Assessment of Dedicated Freight Corridors:

- Objective: To understand the goals and potential outcomes of the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors and their impact on addressing logistical challenges.
- Method:
- Analyze official reports and documentation related to the Dedicated Freight Corridor projects.
- Interview key stakeholders, including project managers, government officials, and industry experts.
- Evaluate the progress and effectiveness of existing sections of Dedicated Freight Corridors through field visits and data analysis.

4. Quantitative Analysis:

- Objective: To assess the economic impact of the current logistics inefficiencies.
- Method:
- Collect quantitative data on the economic losses associated with delays in freight transportation.

- Utilize statistical models to estimate the potential economic gains from improvements in logistics efficiency.
- Compare economic indicators before and after the implementation of Dedicated Freight Corridors, if applicable.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis reveals a critical lag in the average speed of Indian freight trains at 25 km/h, attributing delays to factors like congested tracks and outdated technology. Quantitative assessment shows significant economic losses due to these inefficiencies. Dedicated Freight Corridors, showcased through positive outcomes in initial sections, emerge as a promising solution to enhance efficiency and foster economic growth, supported by stakeholder optimism expressed in interviews. Overall, addressing these logistical challenges is imperative for India's competitiveness and economic progress.

7. TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT

WEEK 1: CONDUCT PRELIMINARY RESEARCH AND REVIEW RELEVANT LITERATURE.

Perform a preliminary literature review on the historical and geopolitical importance of the Indian Ocean, specifically on the Maldives.

Examine scholarly papers and pertinent publications to create a fundamental comprehension of the topic.

WEEK 2: FOCUS ON ANALYZING CASE STUDIES.

Conduct case studies and comparative analysis to evaluate the consequences for the interactions between India and China.

WEEK 3: DRAFTING AND REFINEMENT

Compose an initial report summarizing significant discoveries derived from the literature research, interviews, and early analysis.

Conclude the report, focusing on ensuring it is clear, logical, and in line with the study goals.

Get ready for the ultimate presentation that will condense the most important observations and findings.

8. REFERENCE

Mahan, A. (1890). "The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660–1783."

Smith, J. (2021). "Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean: Navigating Historical Perspectives."

News Article - "Maldives Election Results Trigger Geopolitical Ripples." (Published on October 5, 2023)