

MERI DIALOGUE 4.0

on

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

India's Relations with Central and Southeast Asia: Challenges & Opportunities



Friday, November 8, 2024 • Time: 10 AM Onwards

VENUE

Management Education and Research Institute

(Affiliated to G.G.S.I.P. University, New Delhi)

52-55, Institutional Area, D Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058 INDIA

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ABOUT MERI GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

MERI Group is a premier academic institution providing quality education in India for the past 37 years in the States of New Delhi and Haryana. MERI-Group is an ISO 9001:2015 certified & NAAC accredited institution. It has established itself as a Centre of Excellence in education, with focus on providing quality education in the fields of Engineering, Management, Law, Journalism, Information Technology, Teacher's Training and School Education. Presently, five academic institutions are being operated by the Group in New Delhi and NCR (a digital copy of MERI's information brochure is attached for ready reference, pl).

Presently, MERI-Group has 30 global partnerships with reputed Universities and Educational Institutions from Thailand, China, South Korea, France, Germany, Bulgaria and Canada for students & faculty exchange, research and related academic activities. MERI Group of Institutions is striving to help youth to develop their skills and values by not just letting them go through life but grow through life.

ABOUT MERI DIALOGUE 4.0

MERI Dialogue 4.0 is an intellectual event that aims to bring together dignitaries, experts, diplomats, academicians, research scholars and students to discuss the growing importance of Southeast Asia and Central Asia in international trade. India's political, national security, and economic policy objectives are dynamic and need to be constantly reviewed and modified based on emerging developments in the neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood. India would like to enhance trade relationships in Central Asia and Southeast Asia. This will give India an opportunity to strengthen cooperation on issues of common interest pertaining to security, economic engagement and people to people cooperation in these countries.

In this direction, MERI Dialogue 4.0 is a venture that will explore current trends, challenges and opportunities in the context of geo-strategic, geopolitical and geo-economic scenario. MERI Dialogue 4.0 aims at discussing the diverse perspectives which include

political relations, trade & commerce, role of soft power in enhancing cooperation, economic ties (energy and connectivity). The conference also aims at exploring the methods and concepts for advancing cooperation between India, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

KEY AGENDAS

- Economic Co-operation
- Cultural & Educational Cooperation
- Scientific & Technical Co-operation

OBJECTIVES

- To gain in-depth knowledge of historical perspectives of India-Central and Southeast Asia Relations.
- To examine Indian ties with Central Asia and Southeast Asian Economies.
- To understand the challenges that obstruct India's relations with Central and South east Asia.
- To explore the possibilities for future cooperation to consolidate bilateral and multilateral ties between India, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Domain Experts
- Diplomats
- Academicians
- Technocrats
- Corporate Executives & Entrepreneurs
- Journalists
- Researchers
- Students

ABOUT MERI DIALOGUES

Management Education & Research Institute has been at the forefront of education and thought leadership, offering high-quality academic programs, and fostering global dialogues. Through events like the MERI Dialogues, the college encourages active student participation in global issues, shaping future leaders who understand the complexities of the modern world. MERI has previously organized three quarterly series of these events that through light on geo-economic, geo-cultural, geo-strategic partnerships and future trade possibilities of India with other nations of Asia. MERI Dialogues are immensely important as they help foster cooperation and build India's alliances with other world economies. Keeping this in mind, the previous MERI Dialogues were conducted on the following themes:

MERI Dialogue 1.0:

India and Middle East Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

MERI Dialogue 2.0:

India and Central Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

MERI Dialogue 3.0:

India and Europe: Challenges and Opportunities

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY · NOVEMBER 08, 2024

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM (Inaugural Session)

Welcome Address	Prof. Lalit Aggarwal Vice President MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi
Opening Remarks	His Excellency Mr. Sardor Rustambaev Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India Embassy of Uzbekistan, New Delhi
Inaugural Address	Prof. Abdusamat Khaydarov Director, Diplomatic Academy University of World Economy and Diplomacy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Tashkent

Prof. (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi

Head, Centre for International Studies, MERI and
Director, India Central Asia Foundation, New Delhi

Book Release

India-Uzbekistan Perspectives on
Connectivity between South and Central Asia

Address by
Guest of Honour

Shri I. P. Aggarwal
Hon'ble Chairman, Triveni Educational &
Social Welfare Society, New Delhi

Felicitation

Vote of Thanks

Prof. (Dr.) Deepshikha Kalra
Dean, MERI

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM (Tea Break)

11:45 AM - 13:15 PM (Session 01)

Economic Ties (Energy, Trade & Commerce, Connectivity)

Chair: Ambassador Ashok Kumar Sharma
Former Indian Ambassador to Kazakhstan

Perspectives

India-Central Asia

Dr. Anita Sengupta

Director, Asia in Global Affairs, Kolkata

Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma

Senior Fellow, NatStrat, New Delhi

India-South East Asia

Prof. Shankari Sundaraman

Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies (CIPS), SIS, JNU, New Delhi

Dr. Ajay Dua (IAS, Retd.)

Former Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI

Dr. Nimmual Piewthongngam

smechair@jfctt.org, Thailand (Via ZOOM)

Dr. Rajendra Khimesra

Chairman, Thailand Chapter (Via ZOOM)

Discussant and Q & A Session

Dr. Priyanka Murria, Associate Professor, MERI

Felicitation

13:15 PM - 14:00 PM (Lunch)

14:00 PM - 15:15 PM (Session 02)

Role of Soft Power in Enhancing Cooperation

Chair: **Ambassador Vikas Swaroop (IFS, Retd.)**

Former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI

Mr. Alok Vijayant

Former Senior Director, NSA's Office, PMO, Govt of India

Mr. Ajay Kumar Kaul

Editor-in-Chief, United News of India (UNI)

Mr. Indresh Kumar

National Executive Member, RSS

Prof. Sara Chinaswamy

Consultant, Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development and Visiting Faculty, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne, Australia

Discussant and Q & A Session

Dr. S. S. Mishra, Associate Professor, MERI

Felicitation

15:15 PM - 16:00 PM (Session 03)

Political Relations and Regional Geopolitics

Chair: **Ambassador Gitesh Sarma**

Former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI

Perspectives

India-Central Asia

Prof. Sanjay Kumar Pandey

Centre for Russian and Central Asia Studies (CRCAS), School of International Studies (SIS), JNU, New Delhi

Dr. Siddharth S. Saxena

Director, Cambridge Central Asia Forum
University of Cambridge

India-South East Asia

Ms. Sobori Ganguli, Editor-in-Chief, Poineer

Mr. Rezaul Hassan Laskar, Foreign Editor, Hindustan Times

Mr. Yogendra Kumar (IFS, Retd.)

Former Indian Ambassador to Philippines

Discussant and Q & A Session

Prof. M. Badrul Alam

Former Director of Research and Former Head of Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi

Felicitation

16:00 PM - 16:15 PM (Tea Break)

16:15 PM - 17:00 PM (Participants' Remarks)

Concluding Session:

The Way Forward - Methods and Concepts for Advancing Trade and Cooperation between India, Central Asia and Southeast Asia

Chair: Prof. Abdusamat Khaydarov

Director, Diplomatic Academy, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Tashkent

Panel Discussion

Panelists:

His Excellency Mr. Askar Beshimov

Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to India,
Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic, New Delhi

His Excellency Mr. Sardor Rustambaev

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India, Embassy of Uzbekistan, New Delhi

His Excellency Mr. Azat Serikbossyn

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Kazakhstan, New Delhi

Ambassador Gitesh Sarma

Former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

His Excellency Mr. Lukmon Bobokalonzoda

Ambassador of Tajikistan to India, Embassy of Tajikistan, New Delhi

Mr. Manash Pratim Bhuyan

Editor, Foreign and Strategic Affairs, PTI

Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh

Press Secretary to the President of India

Summing Up

Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Khurana

Advisor, MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi

Felicitation

Vote of Thanks

Prof. (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi

Head, Centre for International Studies, MERI &
Director, India Central Asia Foundation, New Delhi

CHIEF PATRONS

Shri I. P. Aggarwal

Hon'ble Chairman, Triveni Educational & Social Welfare Society, New Delhi

Prof. Lalit Aggarwal

Vice President, MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi

CHIEF COORDINATORS

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Prof. (Dr.) Deepshikha Kalra, Dean, MERI

Prof. (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi

Head, Centre for International Studies, MERI &

Director, India Central Asia Foundation, New Delhi

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBER (S)

Mr. Sadanand Pandey, Professor, MERI

Dr. S. S. Mishra, Associate Professor, MERI

Dr. Priyanka Murria, Associate Professor, MERI

Dr. Richa Gupta, Assistant Professor, MERI

CONTACT PERSON

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