

Centre for International Studies, MERI organised Round Table (RT) on Parliamentary Elections in Uzbekistan

**Nov 12, 2024
New Delhi**

Centre for International Studies (CIS), Management Education Research Institute (MERI), New Delhi organised a Round Table on recently (Oct 27, 2024) held parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan in New Delhi on Tuesday November 12, 2024.

Shri Ashok Sharma, former Indian ambassador to Kazakhstan and Finland and currently President, India Central Asia Foundation (ICAF), New Delhi, Prof. Lalit Aggarwal, Vice President, MERI Group of Institutions, New Delhi, H E Excellency Mr Sardor Rustambaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India, Embassy of Uzbekistan, New Delhi, Shri Skand Tayal, former Indian Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Shri Gitesh A Sarma, Vice-President ICAF & former Indian Ambassador to Uzbekistan and former Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, Prof Sanjay Kumar Pandey, School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, Prof Archana Upadhyay, Chairperson, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, SIS, JNU, Dr Raj Kumar Sharma, Senior Fellow, NatStrat, New Delhi made presentation in the RT. Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, Centre for International Studies, MERI conducted the proceedings of the RT.

Prof Lalit Aggarwal in his welcoming address emphasised the importance of the RT with respect to on-going democratic processes in Uzbekistan. Five political parties participated in these elections. These are **Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Ecological Party of Uzbekistan, People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan** and **Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan**, he added.

Excellency Rustambaev mentioned that elections were held to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (*national parliament*) of the Republic of Uzbekistan and local Kengashes (*Councils*) of people's deputies successfully on October 27, 2024. The current elections, for the first time in the history of the country, organized under a mixed electoral system, combining majoritarian and proportional systems, he added. The elections were observed by more than 850 foreign and international observers. The elections were also directly observed by 55 thousand observers from political parties and more than 10 thousand observers from self-governing bodies of citizens.

All participants were of the view that the recently held parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan are a step forward for democratic processes in Uzbekistan. It is very heartening to see that 40 women representatives in Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (*national parliament*) of the Republic of Uzbekistan and local Kengashes (*Councils*) of people's deputies.

Prof Ramakant Dwivedi underlined that historical and cultural context of a country do shape the trajectory of democratic developments there. It is in this backdrop that we need to see the ongoing constitutional and electoral reforms in Uzbekistan. Tashkent has made substantial progress in empowering legislative bodies and thus establishing a transparent and credible connect between the State and people. He expressed gratitude to all participants.



(from right – Prof. Lalit Aggarwal, Vice President, MERI Group of Institutions, H E Excellency Mr Sardor Rustambaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India, Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, Centre for International Studies, MERI, Shri Skand Tayal, former Indian Ambassador to Uzbekistan and others)