

## MERI – Dialogue 3.0

The Management Education & Research Institute (MERI), New Delhi, successfully hosted the third edition of its prestigious international seminar series, MERI-Dialogue 3.0, on 29th April 2024. The theme for this edition was “India and Europe: Opportunities and Challenges”, aimed at fostering intellectual exchange and policy-oriented dialogue between academia, diplomats, researchers, and media experts from both India and Europe..



The event commenced with a soulful welcome by the students of MERI, creating an atmosphere of cultural pride and academic enthusiasm. The dignitaries participated in a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, invoking the blessings



of Goddess Saraswati, the eternal symbol of knowledge and wisdom. This was followed by the resonant chords of the Indian National Anthem, paying homage to the nation and its democratic ideals. The seminar was formally inaugurated by Hon. Shri I.P. Aggarwal Sir, Chairman of the MERI Group of Institutions, who in his inaugural address, emphasized the importance of international collaborations and academic diplomacy in the current geopolitical environment. He stressed that

India’s engagement with Europe is not just a matter of diplomacy but also a deep-rooted cultural and economic exchange dating back centuries.

The seminar was graced by a stellar panel of eminent personalities who brought diverse perspectives to the discussion. Chief Guest: Hon. Prof. Dr. Margriet Krijtenburg Senior Lecturer & Researcher, European Integration, The Hague University of Applied Sciences Dr. Krijtenburg delivered the keynote address, focusing on the historical evolution and contemporary dynamics of European integration. She reflected on how India and Europe can collaborate in key sectors like climate change, education, digital transformation, and democratic governance. Her insights were deeply rooted in her academic research and highlighted the need for mutual respect and shared values in India-Europe relations.

Guest of Honour Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu (IFS), Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Mr. Sahu provided a policy-centric perspective, drawing attention to the strategic and diplomatic challenges that India and Europe face, such as trade regulations, migration, and global security. Mr. Rezual Hassan Laskar Editor, Foreign Affairs, The Hindustan Times. Mr. Laskar’s remarks focused on the media’s role in shaping perceptions between India and Europe. He emphasized the significance of narrative-building, soft power, and the evolving contours of geo-political reporting.

Dr. Anshu Joshi School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Dr. Joshi gave a scholarly analysis of India-EU strategic partnerships, citing case studies from trade, climate cooperation, and multilateral forums. Hon. Prof. Lalit Aggarwal, Vice President, MERI Group of Institutions, who emphasized MERI's global vision in aligning with India's international educational goals. Faculty members, scholars, and students from various disciplines actively participated in the seminar, making it a vibrant academic exchange.

This was followed by the Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) Deepshikha Kalra, Dean of MERI, who highlighted the objectives behind MERI-Dialogue 3.0. She articulated MERI's commitment to global academic dialogue and capacity building, especially in areas that intersect international relations, economics, and cultural diplomacy.