

REPORT  
**2025**

**MERI**  
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**A REPORT ON  
THE MERI'S  
DELEGATION  
VISIT TO  
TAJIKISTAN**

OCTOBER 12-16, 2025



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# MERI

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



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# A Report on Visit To TAJIKISTAN

## GENERAL



1.1 Prof. Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions, Prof. (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS) & Director, India Central Asia Foundation (ICAF), New Delhi and Shri Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI IT Centre, Incubation & Start-up visited Tajikistan for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and University of Innovation and Digital Technologies of Tajikistan, holding interactions with Dushanbe International Investment Forum (DIIF) – 2025 and Agency for Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan October 12 – 16, 2025. MERI delegation held meeting with number of scholars and high-ranking officials in Tajikistan. The date-wise program and the list of persons with whom MERI delegation held meeting are placed at Appendices 'A' and 'B' respectively.

## 2. MOU SIGNED WITH CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH, DUSHANBE

2.1 MERI Centre for International Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Strategic Research (CSR) under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on October 13, 2025. Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof Usmonzoda K Usmon, Director, CSR signed the MoU on behalf of MERI CIS and CSR respectively. Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS) and Director, India Central Asia Foundation, Amb Rajesh Uike, ambassador of India to Tajikistan, Mr Subhon Qurbonov, representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Startup and other dignitaries were present at the signing of the MoU.

The MoU is aimed at promoting activities that contribute to strengthening mutual understanding and relations between India and Tajikistan. This includes holding joint seminars, conferences and other joint events on interstate regional and global issues of mutual interest, free exchange of publications/researches and official mutual analytical documents, implementation of joint projects and research in areas of mutual interest. Dissemination of research findings would be in the form of thematic/promotional conferences, seminars, Round Tables and other modes involving academics, technocrats, diplomats, defense analysts, entrepreneurs, administrators and other stake-holders in the policy-making process. The Institutions shall engage in enhancement of cultural, educational and people to people ties between India and Tajikistan.



**From left: Prof Usmonzoda Khairiddin Usmon, Director, CSR and Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions**

2.2 MERI Centre for International Studies is a part of MERI Group of Institutions that serves as a Center of Excellence in providing education in the field of international relations, strategic studies and other professional areas. It is a think tank dedicated to the studies of international affairs with especial reference to economic and cultural issues.



**From left: Mr Mukesh Puri, SS, E/I, Amb Rajesh Uike, ambassador of India to Tajikistan, Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS), Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions, Mr Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Startup**

2.3 Prof Usmonzoda Usmon emphasized to enhance interactions, engagements and collaboration between the MERI Group of Institutions and the CSR. Amb Rajesh Uike while speaking about the hard work put in by Prof Dwivedi in finalizing the MoU stated that the said MoU will go long way in enhancing cooperation between the two countries especially in strategic study. Prof Lalit Aggarwal underlined the need of geopolitical study and information technology (IT) in today's world. He elaborated the role of MERI Group of institutions which is known for its world class faculty & industry-oriented curriculum. IT program trains professionals in advanced Cyber security, Data Science and Analytics, Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Software Engineering. Cyber security is aimed at safeguarding systems and data against evolving threats, data science and analytics develops data scientists and analysts skilled in extracting actionable insights from complex data, Machine learning and AI equips students with advanced knowledge in ML and AI to build intelligent systems and predictive models whereas software engineering is designed to develop analytical skilled software engineers proficient in designing, building and maintaining software systems for various applications, he added.



**From left: Prof Usmonzoda Khairiddin Usmon, Director, CSR and Mr. Maruf Abdujabborov, Head, Foreign Policy Analysis and Forecasting Department**

2.4 Dr. Prof Ramakant Dwivedi provided details about the MERI CIS which is an initiative to advance the common interest between India and the International community. CIS has established good contacts with prominent research/academic institutions and distinguished scholars at the global level. The Centre strives to make pioneering contributions in promoting the study of International Relations, International Business and Economic Studies. It aims at advancing knowledge and understanding of international affairs through theoretical and interdisciplinary lenses.



**From left: Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS), Amb Rajesh Uike, ambassador of India to Tajikistan, Prof Usmonzoda Khairiddin Usmon, Director, CSR, Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President MERI Group of Institutions, Mr Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Startup**

2.5 Prof (Dr) Dwivedi highlighted millennia-old civilizational ties and modern strategic cooperation between India and Tajikistan. Key areas of collaboration discussed included trade, security, education and connectivity, including the Chabahar Port and counter-terrorism. The event concluded with expressions of solidarity from Tajik scholars and a felicitation ceremony for Prof (Dr) Dwivedi and Prof Lalit Aggarwal

### 3. DUSHANBE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM (DIIF) – 2025 AT THE KUH-E-VAHDAT, DUSHANBE

3.1 MERI delegation attended the Dushanbe International Investment Forum (DIIF-2025), held at the Kuh-e-Vahdat in Dushanbe during Oct 14-16, 2025. Mr Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan inaugurated the said Forum on Oct 14. Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Mr Abdulla Aripov, Mr Tunku Ali Redhauddin, Tunku Besar Seri Menanti of Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia, Mr Syed Ali Madanizadeh, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ms Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other dignitaries attended the inaugural ceremony of the Forum.



From left: Mr Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, Mr Abdulla Aripov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Mr Tunku Ali Redhauddin, Tunku Besar Seri Menanti of Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

3.2 The Dushanbe International Investment Forum (the Forum) is a large-scale platform for discussing cooperation opportunities, showcasing the Tajikistan's investment potential and fostering business ties with foreign partners. The DIIF-2025 was held under the motto "Green Investments: Today's Opportunities for Tomorrow's Sustainability" and provided participants with opportunities for dialogue, idea exchange and development of visions and strategies to promote green investments as a key tool for achieving the sustainable future. Particular emphasis was given to the resources and opportunities of Tajikistan for green investments.



3.3 Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS made a presentation in the plenary session of the said Forum immediately after the inaugural session on "International Economic Cooperation". Other participants included Mr He Zhenwei, President, China Overseas Development Association, Mr Boboev Shokir, Director, Green Energy Development Department, Tajikistan, Elena V. Son-LaRocco Executive Director, the American Chambers of Commerce, US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council, US-Tajikistan Business Council and US-Afghanistan Business Initiatives.



3.4 Mr Luv Aggarwal made a presentation in the session on “Innovation and Digitalization” in the said Forum. He emphasized to enhance education interactions, engagements and collaboration between the MERI Group of Institutions and the Tajik academic institutions and underlined the need of management study and information technology (IT) in today’s world. He elaborated the role of MERI Group of institutions which is known for its world class faculty & industry-oriented curriculum. IT program trains professionals in advanced Cyber security, Data Science and Analytics, Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Software Engineering. Cyber security is aimed at safeguarding systems and data against evolving threats, data science and analytics develops data scientists and analysts skilled in extracting actionable insights from complex data, Machine learning and AI equips students with advanced knowledge in ML and AI to build intelligent systems and predictive models whereas software engineering is designed to develop analytical skilled software engineers proficient in designing, building and maintaining software systems for various applications, he added.



**Mr Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Startup**

3.5 MERI delegation called on Dr Amonzoda Ilhom Temur, Vice-President, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan in his office on Oct 15, 2025. Mr Qurbonov Subhon, First Secretary, department of Asia – Pacific countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan also joined the meeting. We had constructive dialogue on enhancing academic cooperation between the Academy of Sciences and the MERI Group of Institutions in various spheres. Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions invited Dr Amonzoda Ilhom Temur, Vice-President, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan to India which he accepted. Both the sides agreed to continue the interactions aimed at finding new avenues of academic cooperation between the two institutions.



**From left: Dr. Qurbonov Subhon, First Secretary, department of Asia – Pacific countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions, Dr Amonzoda Ilhom Temur, Vice-President, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS), Mr Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Startup**

#### **4. MOU SIGNED WITH UNIVERSITY OF INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (UIDT) OF TAJIKISTAN, AGENCY OF INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

4.1 MERI Group of Institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Innovation and Digital Technologies (UIDT) of Tajikistan, Agency of Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Kulov city of Tajikistan on September 16, 2025. Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof Almosho Shohiyon, Director, University of Innovation and Digital Technologies of Tajikistan signed the MoU on behalf of MERI Group of Institutions and UIDT respectively. Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, experts from Russia, Iran, India, Central Asian countries, Mr Hokim Ismoilzoda, First Deputy Director of the Agency of Innovation & Digital Technologies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and Mr Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Startup and other dignitaries were present at the signing of the MoU.



4.2 The said MoU envisages cooperation in imparting education in information technology, artificial intelligence and other professional areas. Both the Institutions are committed to achieve their objectives through the promotion of research, scholarships and other mediums. The Institutions will undertake mutually agreed collaborative cooperation and research in IT areas. India and Tajikistan's interest would be the pivot of the collaboration and cooperation in education sector and inspire the research projects. Dissemination of research findings would be in the form of thematic/promotional conferences, seminars, Round Tables and other modes involving academics, technocrats, diplomats, entrepreneurs, administrators and other stake-holders in the policy-making process.

4.3 Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi was awarded a "Diploma of Honorary Professor" by the University of Innovation and Digital Technologies (UIDT) of Tajikistan, Agency of Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Kulov city of Tajikistan on October 16, 2025. This honour was given to Prof (Dr) Dwivedi in a special function at the University campus where experts from Russia, Iran, India, Central Asian countries and other countries participated. Prof (Dr) Dwivedi was given a certificate by Prof Almosho Shohiyon Rector of the said University. This honour was given to Prof (Dr) Dwivedi in recognition of his outstanding achievements in a field of Central Asian Studies and excellent contribution in promoting relations between India and Tajikistan. Mr Hokim Ismoilzoda, First Deputy Director of the Agency of Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan was present on the occasion.



4.4 Prof Lalit Aggarwal underlined the need of geopolitical study and information technology (IT) in today's world. He elaborated the role of MERI Group of institutions which is known for its world class faculty & industry-oriented curriculum. IT program trains professionals in advanced Cyber security, Data Science and Analytics, Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Software Engineering. Cyber security is aimed at safeguarding systems and data against evolving threats, data science and analytics develops data scientists and analysts skilled in extracting actionable insights from complex data, Machine learning and AI equips students with advanced knowledge in ML and AI to build intelligent systems and predictive models whereas software engineering is designed to develop analytical skilled software engineers proficient in designing, building and maintaining software systems for various applications, he added.

