

REPORT  
**2025**

**MERI**  
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**A REPORT ON  
THE MERI's  
DELEGATION  
VISIT TO  
UZBEKISTAN**

APRIL 22-28, 2025




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# MERI

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



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## *A Report on Visit To Uzbekistan*

# 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 Uzbekistan for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Agreement with the Diplomatic Academy at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, holding interactions with Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (TSUOS), Tashkent and presenting a paper at the International Conference on Bakhshi Art in Khiva, Khwarizm during April 22-28, 2025. MERI delegation held meeting with number of scholars and high-ranking officials in Uzbekistan. The date-wise program and the list of persons with whom MERI delegation held meeting are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

## 2. LECTURE AT THE TASHKENT STATE UNIVERSITY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES (TSUOS)

2.1 Prof. (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi delivered a lecture at the TSUOS on "India-Uzbekistan Relations and Regional Cooperation and Integration" as the Guest of Honour on April 22, 2025. The event was hosted by the Department of International Relations, TSUOS and attended by senior faculty members, students and Members of MERI delegation. Prominent attendees included representatives from Prof. Gulchehra S. Rikhsieva office, Dr. Suhrob Buranov, Head, Department of International Relations, Dr. Sirojiddin Nurmatov, and Dr. Nilofar Hodjaeva from the South Asian and Gandhi Study Centre of TSUOS.



**Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, delivering a lecture at the TSUOS, Tashkent, April 22, 2025.**



**Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, with student and Faculties of TSUOS, Tashkent, April 22, 2025.**



**Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, at the Langugae and Literature Centre, TSUOS, Tashkent, April 22, 2025.**



**Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, at the Mahatama Gandhi Study Centre, TSUOS, Tashkent, April 22, 2025.**

2.2 Prof. (Dr.) Dwivedi highlighted millennia-old civilizational ties and modern strategic cooperation between India and Uzbekistan. 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 Uzbek scholars and a felicitation ceremony for Prof. Dwivedi and Prof Lalit Aggarwal.

### 3.MOU AND AGREEMENT SIGNING WITH DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY, UWED, TASHKENT

3.1 MERI Group of Institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Agreement with the Diplomatic Academy at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent in Uzbekistan on April 23, 2025. Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof Abdusamat Khaydarov, Director, Diplomatic Academy, UWED, signed the MoU on behalf of MERI Group of Institutions and Diplomatic Academy, UWED respectively. Prof Sadiq S Safoyev, First Deputy Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan's Parliament, Rector, University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS) and Director, India Central Asia Foundation, Mr. Luv Aggarwal, CEO, MERI Start up, representative from the embassy of India in Uzbekistan, Dr Akram Umarov, First Vice-Rector, UWED, Timur Rahimov, Deputy Director, Diplomatic Academy, UWED and other dignitaries were present at the signing of the MoU.



From left Mr. Luv Aggarwal, Representative from Embassy of India in Tashkent, Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions, His Excellency Mr. Sadiq Safoyev, Rector, UWED and 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oily Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Dr Akram Umarov, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Rector, UWED, Prof Abdusamat Khaydarov, Director, Diplomatic Academy, UWED, Dr Bakhrom Salakhitdinov, Dean, Executive Education, UWED, Dr Mirzoumid Khamdamov, Dean, International Economics and Management Faculty, UWED, T. Rahimov, Deputy Director, Diplomatic Academy, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, April 23, 2025.



From left Smt Smita Pant, ambassador of India to Uzbekistan, Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, Tashkent, April 23, 2025.

3.2 MERI Group of Institutions serves as a center of excellence in providing education in the field of Management, Engineering, Journalism, Law, International relations, Economics, Commerce and other professional areas. The Diplomatic Academy at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy was established in September, 2022 and included in the system of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is a basic higher educational institution that provides training, retraining and advanced training for diplomatic staff, government officials, business representatives, and specialists, as well as scientific and pedagogical personnel and conduct high-level fundamental and applied research.

3.3 The said MoU envisages cooperation in imparting education in management studies, information technology, artificial intelligence, diplomatic studies, 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 International business management, Economics, Trade and Commerce, International Law, Culture studies, and other areas. India and Uzbekistan'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. The Institutions shall engage in enhancement of cultural, educational and people to people ties between India and Uzbekistan.



From left His Excellency Mr. Sadiq Safoyev, Rector, UWED and 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oily Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Prof Abdusamat Khaydarov, Director, Diplomatic Academy, UWED, Dr Bakhrom Salakhitdinov, Dean, Executive Education, UWED, Tashkent, April 23, 2025.

3.4 Prof Sadiq Safoev emphasized to enhance education interactions, engagements and collaboration between the MERI Group of Institutions and the Diplomatic Academy, UWED. Prof Abdusamat Khaydarov while speaking about the hard work put in by Prof Dwivedi in finalizing both the MoU and agreement stated that the said MoU will go long way in enhancing cooperation between the two countries especially in management study. Prof Lalit Aggarwal 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.



From left Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI CIS, Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions, His Excellency Mr. Sadiq Safoev, Rector, UWED and 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oily Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Prof Abdusamat Khaydarov, Director, Diplomatic Academy, UWED, Tashkent, April 23, 2025.

3.5 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.

#### 4. IV INTERNATIONAL BAKHSHI ART FESTIVAL, KHIVA, APRIL 26-28, 2025

4.1 The MERI delegation landed at Urgench international airport to participate in the IV International Bakhshi Art Festival, held in the ancient city of Khiva from April 26–28, 2025. Conference program is placed at appendix 'B'.

4.2 Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi made a presentation on "Intercultural Engagement and Bridging Civilisations: A Comparative Study of Harikatha and Bakhshi Art" at the said conference in Khiva on April 27, 2025.



4.3 Prof (Dr) Dwivedi examined Harikatha and Bakhshi as oral storytelling traditions that preserve cultural heritage and promote intercultural dialogue. He highlighted the spiritual and musical essence of both traditions and their role in conveying moral values and historical narratives. Prof. (Dr.) Dwivedi received a certificate of recognition for his presentation.



4.4 Before leaving, MERI held discussions with Uzbek scholars and officials at Tashkent University of Information Technology (TUIT) and senior officials from the Khwarizm provincial government on possible educational cooperation in management and IT sectors.

4.5 The delegation travelled from Nukus to Tashkent and then departed for Delhi in the early morning at 0125 h on April 29, 2025.