

REPORT
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MERI
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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


OCTOBER 24 -26, 2025



Prepared By:

Prof. (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi

Head MERI Centre for International Studies (CIS)

 011-40554679

 cis.meri.edu.in

 cis@meri.edu.in

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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 to attend an international conference at the British Management University (BMU), Tashkent and for enhancing academic cooperation between MERI Group of Institutions and BMU and Journalism and Mass Communication University of Uzbekistan (UzJMCU) during October 24-26, 2025. MERI delegation held meeting with number of scholars and high-ranking officials in Uzbekistan.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE BRITISH MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY (BMU), TASHKENT

2.1 Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Head, MERI Centre for International Studies, New Delhi and Director, India Central Asia Foundation, New Delhi presented a paper on "Forces Shaping Global & Regional Development" at an international conference on "Research in Action Amid Era of Complexity-2025" organised by University of Cambridge, British Management University & Cambridge Central Asia Forum in Tashkent today Oct 24, 2025.

2.2 This was followed by a presentation by Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Mr Luv Aggarwal on "Making sense of Business and Institutional Development" at the said conference. The conference was organised by the BMU and Cambridge Central Asia Forum (CCAF) representatives. Introduction to the theme and objectives was provided by Prof Siddharth Saxena, BMU & CCAF and Prof Yuri Loktionov, Vice-Chancellor, BMU, Tashkent. In the first session moderated by Prof Siddharth Saxena focused on **Forces Shaping Global & Regional Development**. In this session, Dr Akram Umraov, Vice-Rector, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Dr Chokan Laumulin, Kazakhstan British Technical University, Ms Prajakti Kalra, Cambridge University and Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi made presentations.

2.3 The contemporary global landscape is shaped by a constellation of forces: economic transformations, geopolitical recalibrations, technological advancements, environmental imperatives, and enduring cultural linkages. Central Asia, with its abundant natural resources and strategic crossroads location, exemplifies a microcosm of these intersecting forces, where the ambitions of sovereign states intersect with global aspirations. Historically, India's ties with Central Asia extend beyond millennia, predating even the Silk Road, forming a tapestry woven with trade, culture and intellectual exchange. These enduring connections continue to inform India's contemporary engagement

2.4 The renewed regional momentum reflects not only a strategic impulse but an economic and cultural imperative. India's approach through its Connect Central Asia policy and multilateral platforms such as the India-Central Asia Dialogue and the Summit series, underscores a multilayered strategy, promoting economic cooperation in sectors including pharmaceuticals, information technology, textiles, energy, and agriculture; advancing scientific and digital partnerships; and exploring strategic minerals critical to future industries.



Prof Ramakant Dwivedi making his presentation, Tashkent, oct 24, 2025

2.5 The infrastructural dimension, crucial for enhancing connectivity, sees India actively promoting the International North-South Transport Corridor, a vital corridor that promises to reduce distances and commercial costs, linking India with Central Asia via Iran and Afghanistan. The development of the Chabahar Port stands as a testament to India's commitment to overcoming geographical constraints and building mutually beneficial transport and trade networks.

2.6 Equally, climate change and sustainable development represent emerging frontiers where India offers leadership and partnership. The International Solar Alliance, digital water management frameworks, and expertise in arid agriculture exemplify India's commitment to turning ecological vulnerabilities in the region into platforms for innovation and shared prosperity.

2.7 As advance, let us reaffirm our commitment to these endeavours, recognizing that India's extended neighbourhood in Central Asia is not merely a geographic adjacency but a vibrant field of shared possibility, cooperation, and promise.



From Left: Lionel Henderson, Deputy Rector, BMU, Tashkent, Prof (Dr) Ramakant Dwivedi, Prof Cumhur Coşkun KÜÇÜKÖZMEN, Int'l Trade & Sustainable Finance, WTO, OECD, Basel-FSI, EFD, AIPA, Mr Luv Aggarwal, Sir Paul Grice, Principal Queen Margaret University Edinburgh, UK, Prof. Yuri Loktionov, Rector, BMU, Prof Lalit Aggarwal, VP MERI Group of Institutions, Mr. Vepa Malikgulyyev, Management Consultant, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, Tashkent, Oct 24, 2025

2.8 MERI Centre for International Studies is a part of MERI Group of Institutions that serves as a Centre 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.

3. MERI GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS MEET WITH JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS UNIVERSITY OF UZBEKISTAN (UZZJMCU), TASHKENT, OCT 26, 2025

3.1 MERI Representatives held 2nd meeting with the Journalism and Mass Communication University of Uzbekistan (UzJMCU) in Tashkent on Oct 26, 2025. Prof Lalit Aggarwal, Vice-President, MERI Group of Institutions and Prof Ramakant Dwivedi held fruitful and productive interactions with Dr Ravshan Rayimjonov, Vice-Rector, UzJMCU. Both the sides have agreed on a six-point plan of action to implement the MoU and Agreement signed earlier between the two Institutions in May 2025. Prof (Dr.) Ramakant Dwivedi provided clear road map for exchange of student and faculties and conducting joint teaching in journalism and mass communication disciplines. These were accepted by the UzJMCU.



MERI Delegation with UzJMCU faculties in Tashkent Oct 26, 2025.



Prof Ravshan, Vice- Rector of Journalism and Mass Communication University (JMCU), Tashkent, Uzbekistan presented a memento to Prof Lalit Aggarwal after 2nd Round of successful interactions held in Tashkent on Oct 26, 2025.



Prof Ramakant Dwivedi presented his latest book on India - Uzbekistan to Prof Ravshan, Vice- Rector of Journalism and Mass Communication University (JMCU), Tashkent, Uzbekistan after 2nd Round of successful interactions held in Tashkent on Oct 26, 2025.

3.2 The three-point plan of action from MERI side include invitation to a group of five students and a teacher from UzJMCU, Tashkent to India to participate in the cultural fest being held in India in the month of February 2026. MERI would extend local hospitality to the visiting delegation from the UZJMCU. MERI is ready to teach courses on Journalism & Mass Communications, Management studies and Artificial Intelligence in online and on-site mode from the next semester. Financial & administrative arrangements need to be worked out. MERI would also invite UzJMCU faculties to seminar & conferences being organised by the MERI soon.

4. OUTCOME/NET DELIVERABLE GENERATED FROM THE VISIT

4.1 A group of students and faculties would be invited to Tashkent by the UzJMCU soon under the cultural exchange program. Also, MERI faculties would be invited to teach at the UzJMCU, Tashkent from next semester starting in Feb 2026.

4.2 British Management University, Tashkent is likely to invite our students & faculties within the framework of bilateral academic cooperation on the reciprocal basis from next semester. Also, Cambridge University agreed to invite our students to UK on the reciprocal basis.