

Speech of High Commissioner of India to Tanzania on ITEC Day 2026

28 March 2026

Hon'ble Amb Mahmoud Thabit Kombo,

Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Officers from TPDF

My dear friends High Commissioner of Zimbabwe and Ambassador of Vietnam who are today here as ITEC Alumni

Our proud ITEC Alumni,

My colleagues from High Commission of India

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaskar and Good evening.

It is a privilege to stand before you today as we celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme -popularly known as ITEC.

Today is not merely an anniversary. It is a celebration of something far deeper - A partnership built on trust, strengthened through shared learning, and sustained by people-to-people connections between India and Tanzania.

Since its inception in 1964, ITEC has been guided by a simple but powerful idea -**That development must be shared**. In India, we call this philosophy: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -the world is one family.

And nowhere is this spirit more visible than in our relationship with Tanzania.

Over the decades, thousands of Tanzanian professionals have benefited from ITEC.

- Government officials
- Engineers
- Doctors
- Entrepreneurs
- Defence personnel

In the last 2 years we have had the pleasure of hosting 1,778 ITEC participants from Tanzania. Around 1362 were from the government and the rest 416 were from the private sector .

While precise numbers continue to grow each year, what is most important is not how many have trained —But what they do after they return.

It is the civil servant who improves governance.

It is the healthcare worker who saves lives with new techniques.

It is the entrepreneur who creates jobs and opportunities.

This... is where ITEC truly comes alive.

This is nation-building in action.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are living in a time of profound transformation. Technology is no longer optional. It is central to economic growth, governance, and national resilience. And ITEC has evolved accordingly.

Today, our programmes are strongly focused on the future:

- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science — enabling smarter policymaking
- Digital Governance — improving transparency and efficiency
- Cyber Security — safeguarding national systems
- FinTech and Digital Payments — expanding financial inclusion
- Renewable Energy — powering sustainable development
- Agricultural Technology — strengthening food security

These are not just academic subjects. They are tools of transformation.

For a dynamic and fast-growing nation like Tanzania, these capabilities are essential —

To accelerate industrialisation,

To drive digital transformation,

And to build a skilled and future-ready workforce.

I am pleased to share that India currently offers approximately 1000 ITEC training slots annually for Tanzania. And let me assure you -This number is not a limit. It is a starting point.

As Tanzania's ambitions grow, India stands ready to expand this cooperation further.

We are also encouraged to see increasing participation of Private sector participants and women professionals in ITEC programmes. This reflects our shared commitment to: inclusive growth, empowered leadership, and equitable development.

Excellencies and friends,

Our cooperation today goes beyond training. It is becoming deeper, broader, and more future-oriented.

The establishment of the IIT Madras campus in Zanzibar stands as a historic milestone.

It is not just an educational institution. It is a symbol of trust, a hub of innovation, and a gateway to world-class technical education in Africa. We have the Director of IIT MZ Prof Prabhu Rajagopal amongst us with his other colleagues. I shall encourage all of you to interact with him later in the evening to know more about this outstanding institution and his ambitious plans for Tanzania in the field of innovation, AI and Data Sciences.

At the same time, our development partnership continues to make a tangible impact in the field of :

- Water supply projects improving access to clean water
- Healthcare initiatives, including Jaipur Foot camps restoring mobility and dignity
- Capacity-building programs strengthening institutions

All of this reflects a shared belief:

That investing in people is the most powerful investment any nation can make.

To our ITEC alumni present here today:

You are the true strength of this partnership. You are the connectors, The leaders, The change-makers shaping Tanzania's future.

Your success... is our pride. **And let me say this clearly:** ITEC is not a one-way exchange. India learns from Tanzania —From your resilience, Your innovation, and your strong sense of community.

As we look ahead, the future of India–Tanzania cooperation is full of promise.

Under the leadership of Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our two nations are working together in key areas:

- Digital innovation
- Blue economy and maritime cooperation
- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals
- Education and skills development

We are not just partners. We are partners in progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sixty-one years ago, ITEC began as a small initiative. Today, it has grown into a powerful platform that:

- Connects nations
- Empowers individuals
- Builds futures

And most importantly—It proves that knowledge shared is power multiplied.

As Tanzania continues its journey toward Vision 2025 and beyond, India remains committed to being:

A reliable partner,

A trusted friend,

And a long-term collaborator.

Let us continue to: Invest in people, Share knowledge, And strengthen this remarkable partnership.

In conclusion, let us celebrate not just ITEC—But the enduring friendship between India and Tanzania.

Asanteni sana. Thank you very much.

Jai Hind