

Independence Day Speech

High Commission of India, Dar es Salaam 15 August 2026

Your Excellencies,

Hon'ble Amb. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo Chief Guest for today's
Independence Day celebration

Honourable Mussa Azzan Zungu, Speaker of the National
Assembly

Honourable Member of Parliament and senior officials of the
Government of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Senior officers from TPDF

Distinguished business leaders, Friends from Media,

Members of the Indian community, Friends of India,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Habari ya Zioni , Namaskar, Good evening,

It is my great honour to welcome you all. I would like to express my deep gratitude to our Chief Guest, His Excellency Amb. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, for taking the time to be with us on our special day today.

Today, as India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, we remember with deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who gave us freedom. In the last one year, India has moved forward with confidence, stability and ambition. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave a clear message last year *he* said, “Aatmanirbharta is the need of the times. Self-reliance is the cornerstone of building a Viksit Bharat.”

That message of self-reliance can be seen in India’s achievements over the past year. India remained the fastest-growing major economy in the world. (*According to the World Bank’s April 2026 India Development Update.*) India’s growth in FY25-26 rose to 7.6 per cent, even as the world faced trade tensions and uncertainty.

India’s exports reached a new record. India’s total exports of goods and services reached about USD 825 billion. During the same period, UPI, India’s instant payment system, processed more than 241 billion transactions, with a total value of about Rs 314 trillion. Today, India accounts for nearly 49 per cent of global real-time digital payments.

India also crossed a historic milestone in clean energy. India added over 55 gigawatts of non-fossil power capacity. By March 2026, India’s non-fossil capacity reached around 283

gigawatts. Most importantly, India achieved 50 per cent of its installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources. This was achieved five years ahead of India's 2030 target.

India's foreign policy has also reflected this new confidence. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has often said that in an uncertain world, partnerships must be practical, respectful and responsive.

Over the past year, India's diplomacy has been active, balanced and purposeful. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi engaged with partners across Asia, Africa, Europe, West Asia and the Indian Ocean. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Japan, China, Bhutan, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Jordan, Oman, the Netherlands, Israel, the UAE, France, Italy , Seychelles, Indonesia , Australia and New Zealand .

India also welcomed leaders from France, Germany, Spain, Fiji, Mauritius, Russia, Canada, Finland, Austria, Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, Cyprus, Seychelles, Venezuela, Vietnam, Japan **and** Tanzania. These visits were not only symbolic. They led to cooperation in defence, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, clean energy, maritime security, critical minerals, supply chains, skilling and investment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our Foreign Policy, Tanzania has a critical importance. India and Tanzania share a warm and trusted partnership. Our relationship is seen in trade, health, education, water, defence, culture, capacity building and people-to-people friendship.

The strong bilateral relations between India and Tanzania received a boost with the State Visit of H.E. Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania to India in October 2023. During her excellency visit, our bilateral relations were elevated to “Strategic Partnership”.

Last month, the visit of H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, to India further strengthened our bilateral partnership. He was the chief guest at the 63rd convocation of IIT Madras, where he unveiled the construction plans of the new campus of IITM Zanzibar. He also held bilateral talks with the Indian Vice President and met EAM Dr Jaishankar.

Over the past few months, several Ministerial-level visits to India from Tanzania have reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen and deepen our relationship. We were honored to receive the Hon’ble Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania; the Hon’ble Health Minister; The Hon’ble Minister for

Communication and Information Technology ; Hon. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ; **and** Hon'ble Deputy Energy Minister.

In June, I had the distinct pleasure to interact and brief the 10 Hon'ble Members of Parliament who are members of India-Tanzania Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs). I am happy to note few of the Hon'ble MP's could join us today.

On the Trade front our bilateral trade has witnessed a positive trend. Our trade volume has reached USD 9.02 billion in 2025-26. It has grown by more than 300% in the past five years. It is a testament to the resilience and ambition of our business communities. India & Tanzania also co-hosted the 5th India-Tanzania Joint Trade Committee Meeting in Dar es Salaam in April 2026. I am confident that our Bilateral Trade will cross USD 10 billion very soon.

India is proud to be a reliable development partner of Tanzania. We have committed over 1.1 billion US dollars in Lines of Credit mainly for water projects across Tanzania to ensure clean drinking water to around 6 million Tanzanians .

The HCI organised the second Jaipur Foot Artificial Limbs Camp in Dar-es-salaam. The camp provided 653 Jaipur Foot artificial limbs free of cost to 622 differently-abled brothers &

sisters from different regions of Tanzania. This brought back their dignity and mobility.

With a view to reaching out to all across Tanzania the pre International Day of Yoga events were organised across 35 towns and cities in Tanzania. On 21 June 2026, the 12th International Day of Yoga witnessed around 2500 yoga enthusiasts in Gymkhana grounds in Dar es Salaam.

HCI organised an evening, "Celebrating The Elders" to mark the *Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas/ Overseas Indian Day*. The event was to recognise the lifelong contributions of prominent Indian Diaspora members in building and nurturing Tanzania. The event showcased four documentary films about four prominent Indian Diaspora members prepared by the students of Indian School, Dar es Salaam.

In our efforts to deepen people-to-people ties in Tanzania, the High Commission organised the first ever Indian Film Festival in Tanzania. The grand festival showcased Six Indian Movies at the Century Cinemax, Aura Mall, in January 2026.

To showcase the shared cultural ties between India and Tanzania, we organised a painting competition on the theme "Indian Ocean - Connecting Indian and Tanzanian Cultures" at the TaSuBa Campus, Bagamoyo. The event featured 20

young Tanzanian artists and concluded with a prize distribution ceremony for their outstanding artistic creativity.

With the aim to engage with the youth, the High Commission organized a painting competition, “Tanzania on Canvas,” in collaboration with 10 leading Tanzanian schools. The prize distribution was organised with the Deputy Foreign Minister as chief guest at JNICC.

We continue to share our expertise with Tanzanian brothers and sisters. India offers around 1000 ITEC and 135 ICCR scholarships annually to Tanzanian nationals on full Government of India sponsorship. This is the highest number in the entire African continent for any country.

To conclude, let me state that India’s freedom struggle taught us the value of dignity. Tanzania’s history teaches the same lesson. That is why our partnership is natural. We are two proud nations, two voices of the Global South and two friends across the Indian Ocean.

May India and Tanzania continue to rise together. And may our friendship remain as deep and enduring as the Indian Ocean that connects us.

Jai Hind. Asante sana.