

***Speech of the High Commissioner of India for the inauguration of
Phase I International Training Programme on Data Science, AI, and
Cybersecurity Audit for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of African
nations, Zanzibar (10 August 2026)***

- ***Mr. Charles Kichere, Controller and Auditor General, National Audit Office of Tanzania***
- ***Dr. Othman Abbas Ali, Controller and Auditor General of Zanzibar***
- ***Shri B.K. Mohanty, Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General of India***
- ***Shri Sreeraj Ashok, Director of India Audit Office, Nairobi***
- ***Mr. Sarjeet Kajla, Consul General of India in Zanzibar***
- ***Members of Comptroller and Auditor General of India's Office, and participants from Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of African nations***
- ***Members of Indian Institute of Technology Madras Zanzibar Campus***
- ***My esteemed colleagues,***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen;***

Good Morning and Namaskar!

A very warm welcome to all of you. It is an honor and a privilege to address this distinguished gathering as we inaugurate Phase I of the International Training Programme on Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity Audit for Supreme Audit Institutions of African nations.

Standing here today at the IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus, I am deeply moved by how visionary ideas translate into tangible global impact. This campus, the very first international footprint of India's premier Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), stands as a proud symbol of India-Tanzania friendship and our shared commitment to technological excellence across the Global South. It is fitting that this historic institution serves as the home where audit leaders from across Africa gather to chart the future of public governance.

I extend a heartfelt welcome to our senior auditors representing Supreme Audit Institutions from Eswatini, Egypt, Algeria, Liberia, Gambia, Tunisia, Mainland Tanzania, Zanzibar, Mauritius, and Morocco. Your presence reflects a collective dedication to strengthening India-Africa partnership, accountability, transparency, and public trust across the continent.

We live in an era of rapid digital transformation. As governments digitize public finance, procurement, and service delivery, traditional audit frameworks are evolving. Big Data, Artificial

Intelligence (AI), and cloud technologies present immense opportunities to enhance audit efficiency, detect systemic risks, and safeguard public funds.

However, rapid digitization brings complex challenges. Managing data integrity, detecting algorithm-driven anomalies, and protecting public assets against cyber threats require advanced skill sets. Over the next two weeks, this programme will equip you with practical capabilities in turning massive data streams into actionable audit insights, leveraging AI to detect fraud, and verifying that critical national IT infrastructure remains secure.

This initiative exemplifies the deep, enduring strategic partnership between India and Africa in general, and India and Tanzania in particular, anchored in mutual respect, shared values, and mutual growth. India's vision of development assistance is grounded in South-South Cooperation, sharing technical expertise, building institutional capacity, and co-creating solutions tailored to regional needs.

This commitment to human capital is deeply rooted in India's foreign policy vision for Africa, which prioritizes non-conditional, demand driven capacity building through our flagship initiatives. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) including the India-Africa Friendship Scholarship Scheme, India has extended nearly 15000 ICCR scholarships and over 40,000

specialized training slots to African students and professionals over the last decade alone. Today, India allocates thousands of fully funded training slots annually across sectors like information technology, governance, and public finance to empower Africa's next generation of leaders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

IIT Madras Zanzibar is a testament to this commitment. Since its establishment in October 2023, it serves as an academic bridge connecting India, Tanzania, and the broader Pan-African community, while highlighting this campus's growing role as a premier hub for digital leadership.

To our distinguished participants, you are not merely attending a technical course; you are shaping the future of public audit in your respective nations. As you engage with the expert faculty and interact with peers from across the continent, I encourage you to challenge existing paradigms, build lasting professional networks, and return home empowered to lead digital transformation in your institutions.

I express my deepest gratitude to the leadership and faculty of IIT Madras Zanzibar, the host authorities in Tanzania and Zanzibar, and all partner organizations who made this event possible. To our delegates, I wish you an enriching, productive, and inspiring time here in Zanzibar.

Thank you, and Asanteni sana!