

**Consulate General of India
Zanzibar**

(India - Zanzibar Bilateral Relations)

India and Zanzibar have centuries old relations. Merchants, Mariners, and Travelers from Kutch, Saurashtra, Maharashtra and Goa have been visiting Zanzibar for centuries. However, after the conclusion of agreements between Great Britain and Oman for the abolition of slavery in the Isles, greater number of Indians came to Zanzibar to do business and work in clove plantations and join services. They put in appreciable efforts to develop the economy of the Isles. Later, many of them owned plantations and became affluent otherwise.

2. However, in January 1964, during the period of revolution, they also suffered, since almost every sphere of activity was harshly controlled by the Revolutionaries / Peoples Militia. The assets of not only the Arab rulers but also of the Indians were confiscated by the Revolutionary Government. Out of more than 10,000 Indians only limited numbers remained in Zanzibar. The rest having moved to the Mainland, Gulf countries, India, UK, Canada, etc. At that time Zanzibar was being covered by High Commission of India in Nairobi. However, in February 1964, the Isles were brought within the jurisdiction of the High Commission of India, Dar-Es-Salaam. The Consulate General of India at Zanzibar was opened in October, 1974 and first independent Consul General Shri V.P. Singh joined on 23.10.1974. Since then, India has maintained its diplomatic presence in the Zanzibar Isles.

3. Since most of the Bohra, Ismailies, Itthnasaris and other Muslim groups had sided with the Omani Sultan's oligarchy in Zanzibar, they suffered much more during Revolution. The Hindus had supported the then political party of the Africans, namely the Afro-Shirazi Party. They did not suffer as much, even though their assets were also nationalized. In the post revolution period many Hindus went away from Zanzibar mainly fearing for the safety of their womenfolk and because of the disruption of their economic activities, on which they had no longer any hold.

4. With the opening of the resident Consulate General of India in Zanzibar in 1974, the economic cooperation between the Isles and India gained momentum. Earlier India had also provided financial and technical assistance to Zanzibar. Zanzibar's relations with India have been friendly and cordial. With the opening of the Resident Consulate General of India in Zanzibar in 1974, the relations between the Isles and India have been growing from strength to strength. Several high-level visits have taken place since then.

Visit to Zanzibar by Indian Dignitaries :-

i	Shri B. D Jatti, Vice President of India	May 23-26, 1975
ii.	Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India	Oct 12-13, 1976
lii.	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs	July, 1977
iv.	Shri Ram Jethmalani, Minister of Law, Justice & Company Affairs	August, 1999

v.	Shri Krishan Kant, Vice President of India	Oct 21-22, 1999
vi.	Shri Omar Abdulla, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry	January, 2000
Vii.	Shri Yashwant Sinha, External Affairs Minister	April 07, 2003
Viii.	Shri. Satyabrata Mookherjee, MoS (Commerce & Industry)	June 08, 2003
ix.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India	September 12, 2004
x.	Smt. D. Purandeswari, MoS-HRD (Higher Education)	May 31, 2007
xi.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Hon'ble EAM	July, 05 th - 06 th , 2023
Xii.	Shri. V Muraleedharan, Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs	November 20 th , 2023

Visit to India by Zanzibar Dignitaries :-

I.	Mr. Amani Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar	March, 8-12, 2004
ii.	Mr. Haroun Ali Suleiman (PIO), Minister for Education and Vocational Training	Nov. 25-30, 2004 Nov, 17-23, 2006 & March 10-18, 2008
iii.	Mr. Ali Juma Shamuhuna, Deputy Chief Minister of Zanzibar and Minister for Information, Culture and Sports	August 13-24, 2007
iv.	Dr. Mwinyi Haji Makame, MoS for Finance in the President's Office visited India to attend 4 th India-Africa Project Partnership Conclave as a member of Tanzanian delegation led by Vice-President of Tanzania.	March 18-24, 2008
v.	Mr. Pandu Ameir Kificho, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Zanzibar	December 10-12, 2012
Vi.	Mr. Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa, Adviser to the President of Zanzibar visited India under distinguished Visitor Programme (DVP) of ICCR	December 19-29, 2012
Vii.	Mr. Haroun Ali Suleiman, Minister for Labour, Economic Empowerment & Cooperatives, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar	May, 28-31, 2013
Viii.	Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar	February, 2-11, 2014
ix.	H.E Lela Mohamed Mussa, Minister for Education & Vocational Training	November 23-26, 2022
x.	H.E Nasoor Ahmed Mazrui, Minister of Health, as part of President of Tanzania visit to India	October 09, 2023
xi.	H.E Suleiman Masoud Makame, Minister of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar	October 17-19, 2023
Xii.	H.E. Tabia Maulid Mwita, Hon'ble Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports for participation in Surajkund	February, 2024

	Mela	
Xiii.	H.E Omar Said Shaaban, Minister of Trade and Industrial Development for participation in India -Africa Business Conclave	August , 2024
Xiv.	H.E. Tabia Maulid Mwita, Hon'ble Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports for participation in Gita Mahotsav, Haryana	December, 2024
XV	H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Zanzibar President visit to India	July, 2026

5. **Student Visas:**

The number of student visas issued during the last three + years is as follows:

Student Visas

2019	214
2020	77
2021	179
2022	201
2023	206
2024	335
2025	409

6. **Medical Facilities:**

India is a favorite destination for medical treatment. The Ministry of Health of The Government of Zanzibar regularly sponsors patients for treatment in India. The number of medical visas issued during the last three +years are as below. The number of Medical Visa has reduced significantly due to preference of e-Medical Visa.

Medical Visas

2019	618
2020	213
2021	120
2022	13
2023	15
2024	89
2025	216

7. **Training / Scholarship :-**

India has been providing financial and technical assistance to Zanzibar in various fields under its ITEC / SCAAP / IAFS programmes. Many Zanzibari students have pursued their studies in India under ICCR scholarship and on self-financing basis. Likewise, many Zanzibari civil servants have availed themselves of training in various disciplines in India under the ITEC / SCAAP programme. The President's Office – Public Service and Good Governance; Zanzibar is the nodal agency responsible for nominating ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) / SCAAP (Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme) /

IAFS (India Africa Forum Summit Initiative Programme) candidates from Zanzibar. Total number of ITEC Scholarships granted to Zanzibar as on date is 966.

S. N	Year	ITEC	ICCR (ICCR scholarships for Zanzibar commenced from 2021)	IAFS (2012-18)
I.	2018-19	60	N/A	21
ii.	2019-20	56	N/A	
lii.	2020-21	Nil (Covid-19)	N/A	
iv.	2021-22	Nil (Covid -19)	2	
v.	2022-23	36	12	
vi.	2023-24	10	31	
Vii.	2024-25	60	33	
Vii.	2025-26	40	20	

8. India-Zanzibar Trade : -

With little or no manufacturing activity, Zanzibar depends exclusively on imports for all its requirements. The market is rather small with a population of 1.8 million with very little purchasing power. The import market, however, holds some promise and potential for agricultural and processed foodstuffs, textiles, garments, bicycles, two-wheeler scooters, consumer goods and plastic and rubber products. Re-exports of goods (originating from India) from UAE also accounts for sizable portion of Zanzibar's imports. Zanzibar's main exports to India are Cloves.

India's Trade with Tanzania India Imports and Exports from 2020 - 2025

(Value in Millions USD)

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Imports	934.88	2,279.18	2,541.31	3,291.9	1,810
Exports	1,439.06 2	2,300.88	3,935.49	4,616.62	4,670
Volume of Trade	2,373.94	4,580.06	6,476.80	7,908.54	6,480

9. LOC / Partnership :-

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid a State visit to Tanzania from July 09th -10th, 2016. He met the President of Tanzania, Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli for bilateral talks. During his visit various bilateral agreements pertaining to mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar Isles were signed. Below mentioned partnership cooperation agreements are being implemented or under consideration.

(i) **Rehabilitation and Development of Drinking Water System in Zanzibar :-**

Under Phase (I) of Line of Credit Agreement signed between Govt of India and United Republic of Tanzania in year 20216, USD 500 million was earmarked for development of

drinking water and sanitation projects in Tanzania. Out of which USD 92.18 million was earmarked for Rehabilitation and Improvement of Drinking Water Supply System in Zanzibar. Bilateral agreement was signed during Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visit to Tanzania in July, 2016. EXIM Bank further sub-divided the scope of work among 03 Indian Companies namely, M/s L & T, M/s Afcons & Vijeta Co, and M/s Megha Engineering. M/s CRUX Engineering provided consultancy services. The project got completed in year 2024 (M/s L & T and M/s Megha Engineering completed their projects in March, 2024, while M/s Afcons & Vijeta Co, completed their project in June, 2024). The Defect Liability Period (DLP), which was of one year duration ended in March, 2025 for M/s L & T, and M/s Megha Engineering and in June, 2025 for M/s Afcons & Vijeta Co. All the 08 Water Projects has been commissioned and the Defect Liability Period, which was of 01 year duration also elapsed in June, 2025. Imposition of VAT on imported construction materials, delay in release of retention amount money against submission of Bank Guarantees of the implementing companies, congestion at Zanzibar Port, frequent breakdown of cranes, preferential berthing of food and perishable commodities over the construction materials at Zanzibar Port, were some of the challenges faced by Indian companies while implementing the projects. As per Line of Credit (LoC) Terms and Agreements, all local taxes due to The Government of The United Republic of Tanzania is exempted. The contractors can avail exemptions on local taxes on receipt of exemption certificate called "Government Notice" issued by Ministry of Finance & Planning of Tanzania. Ministry of Finance expressed it's inability to issue blanket exemption for all local taxes. Tanzanian Government issued "Government Notice" for each type of taxes separately. GN for some taxes have were issued, but for some taxes it was delayed. Indian contractors were facing problems due to delayed issuance of Government Notice, which has resulted in Tax Default Notice from Tanzanian Revenue Authority. In some cases Indian contractors had paid the taxes like VAT upfront hoping to get reimbursed at the later date.

Another Line of Credit Agreement of USD 500 million (under Phase -II) for water infrastructure projects in 24 towns in Tanzania was signed on May 10, 2018. Signing ceremony between Indian companies, L & T, Afcons & Vijeta, Megha Engineering, Jindal Water Infrastructure, and Ministry of Water of Tanzania was held on 6 June, 2022 in Dodoma. Approximately 35 million USD, out of the total of 500 million USD under LOC in 02nd tranche will be implemented for Rehabilitation and Development of Drinking Water Supply System in Zanzibar. Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd. prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Zanzibar component, which was further modified by Project Authority, Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) and it was transmitted to DPA (I) Division via High Commission for its submission to concern line Ministry in India. Regarding the status of selection of Project Management Consultant (PMC), the pre -qualification (PQ) for the PMC selection was conducted by Exim Bank and the result was declared on February 12, 2025. The tender document was launched by the Project Authority (PA) on August 19, 2025. Exim Bank conveyed its No-Objection to the Technical Bid Evaluation Report for the selection of the PMC on February 12, 2026. Subsequently, the Combined Technical and Financial Bid Evaluation Report (CBER) was received on February 25, 2026. As per the CBER, the price quoted by the H1 Bidder was higher than the cost put to tender. Accordingly, a meeting was held on March 11, 2026, to deliberate on the CBER and to determine the way forward. During the discussions, the PA informed that there is an overall reduction in the scope of

works under the project, due to withdrawal of two water supply schemes by the PA, after the launch of the tender. Based on the Financial Bid received and also the fact that there has been withdrawal of the work, it was agreed that negotiations may be undertaken with the H1 bidder. Pursuant to the negotiations, the revised report was received from PA on April 15, 2026, and the same is currently under examination by Exim Bank.

As regarding selection of Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Contractor for the project, the pre -qualification (PQ) process for selection of the EPC contractor was completed by Exim Bank in April 2025, and the draft Model Tender document was shared with the Project Authority, with a request for expeditious finalization of the Tender document for EPC selection, parallel to the PMC selection. During the meeting held on Feb 13, 2026, it was agreed by the PA that the draft EPC Tender document shall be submitted by PA to Exim Bank by end of February 2026, which is currently awaited. During the meeting Exim Bank has conveyed that an official from Exim Bank is willing to travel to Zanzibar for assistance in finalization of the tender document, after receipt of the first draft. Last reminder to PA was sent on April 8, 2026, for submission of the draft tender document.

(ii) Vocational Training Center in Pemba :-

The proposal for establishment of a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) specializing in hospitality and food processing in Vitongoji, Pemba Island was conceived in year, 2014 and the DPR was prepared. Government of Zanzibar completed the construction of infrastructure in December, 2019. (DPA (II) Division in March, 2022 conveyed that long time has elapsed since the conception of project in year 2014, and hence the DPR needs to be reexamined. A virtual meeting was held on May 11th, 2022, comprising DPA (II), Mission's Representative, THSC, FICSI, India and Vocational Training Academy (VTA), Ministry of Education & Vocational Training, Government of Zanzibar. Following the meeting it was agreed that a team of Indian Experts would visit Zanzibar for preparation of revised DPR for the project on the basis of current market trend and requirement of Zanzibar labour market. In continuation of the same, a 05 member delegation comprising of M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Council, and Sector Skill Council for Food Processing, Tourism and Hospitality, Government of India visited Vitongoji Vocational Training Center and Daya Training Center in Pemba from May 15 – 16, 2023. N.S.D.C submitted its report to (DPA-II) Division.

(iii) Setting up of IITM Campus in Zanzibar :-

On the invitation of Hon'ble Minister for Education, Government of India Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education & Vocational Training, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, H.E Lela Mohamed Mussa, attended the UNESCO - India - Africa Hackathon Event held in New Delhi from November 23rd - 26th, 2022. Hon'ble Minister Lela Mohamed Mussa, also visited IIT Madras campus from November 21st – 22nd, 2022. After the successful visit to India, Ministry of Education & Vocational Training, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar extended invitation to IIT Madras to visit Tanzania to discuss the establishment of campus of IIT in Tanzania. Subsequently, a delegation from IIT Madras, led by 5 Professors / Dean visited Zanzibar in February, 2023. The delegation had fruitful interactions and meetings with Hon'ble Minister of Education & Vocational Training, Vice Chancellor of State University of Zanzibar and Principal of Karume Institute of Science &

Technology. visiting delegation also call on Hon'ble President of Zanzibar, H.E Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi. Delegation from IIT Madras again paid the visit in May, 2023, and suggested some modifications in building structures of the temporary campus allocated for setting up of IITM - Zanzibar. Steering Committee was formed to further deliberate and forward the project, which comprises 03 members from IIT Madras, and 03 members from M/o Education and Vocational Training, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. Prof. Preeti Aghalayam, Prof. Raghunathan Rengaswamy, and Prof. Ligy Philip from IIT Madras and Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, Ms. Mwanakhamis Adam Ameir, Principal of Karume Institute of Science and Technology, Prof. Mehmud and a nominated member, Shri Abde Rehman Hassan were selected as steering committee members. MoU to setup an IIT in Zanzibar, Tanzania was signed between Ministry of Education, Government of India, Ministry of Education & Vocational Training, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, and IIT Madras on July 05th 2023, during the visit of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar to Zanzibar. The screening test for undertaking enrollment of students for Academic Year 2023-24, was concluded on September 03rd, 2023. The classes for the IIT Madras – Zanzibar were started from October 24th, 2023, and the campus was formally inaugurated on November 06th, 2023 by Hon'ble President of Zanzibar and The Chairman of The Revolutionary Council, H.E Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

IIT Madras deputed 08 of Professors from its own campus in India to IIT Madras-Zanzibar, besides that it also recruited 03 other faculty for teaching at the newly established campus. Deputed Faculties from IIT Madras, draws their pays & allowances from IIT Madras itself, however Zanzibar Government provides them, accommodation and transport, besides that it also provides USD 2,500 equivalent Tshilling payment to faculties for meeting their day to day expenses. Professor Preeti Aghalayam, alumnus of IIT Madras was appointed as first Director in Charge of IIT Madras -Zanzibar Campus. Presently Professor Prabhu Rajagopal is the Director in charge of IIT Madras -Zanzibar and Zanzibar has also appointed Professor Idrisa as Chief Administrator. Zanzibar Government has allocated 225 Acre land in Fumba Township for permanent campus, which will likely be completed by year 2027. Since its inception, the campus has successfully launched Bachelor of Science (B.S) programmes for undergraduates (50 seats) and Master of Technology (M. Tech) programmes (20 seats) for postgraduates in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence. 03 batches of students have already enrolled in these courses, and the first batch of the Master's programme (M. Tech) had successfully completed their courses and passed out in year 2025.

(iv) Zanzibar Technology, Research, and Innovation Centre (ZTRIC) :-

A [proposal in this regard was received from Ministry of Education & Vocational Training, Revolutionary Govt. of Zanzibar in January, 2024 with a DPR with estimated cost of 15 million USD for which financial assistance from Govt. of India, has been requested. Ministry has sought clarifications on exemption from taxes on student fees, consultancy fees, research grants, endowments, property registration and its status, exemption from all cess, taxes and levies etc. The ZTRIC Campus is proposed to be established in the IIT Madras Zanzibar's upcoming permanent campus.

(v) Health / Medicine :-

Government of India assisted Zanzibar Government by providing essential medicines worth 1.56 Crore, which was handed over to Minister for Health, Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender and Children, Govt of Zanzibar, Mr. Nassor Ahmed Mazrui at Marghubi Medical Store in Unguja on April 12th, 2021. A request to supply CorBE Vax, COVID -19 vaccine comprising of protein sub-unit on grant basis to Ministry of Health, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has been conveyed in June, 2023.

(July 2026)
