

WELCOME TO IIT MADRAS ZANZIBAR CAMPUS



**IIT Madras
Zanzibar**

SASISHO

The IITM Zanzibar Chronicle

A look back at the people, ideas, achievements, and moments that made the month at IIT Madras Zanzibar.

April 2026 Edition

www.iitmz.ac.in/newsletter

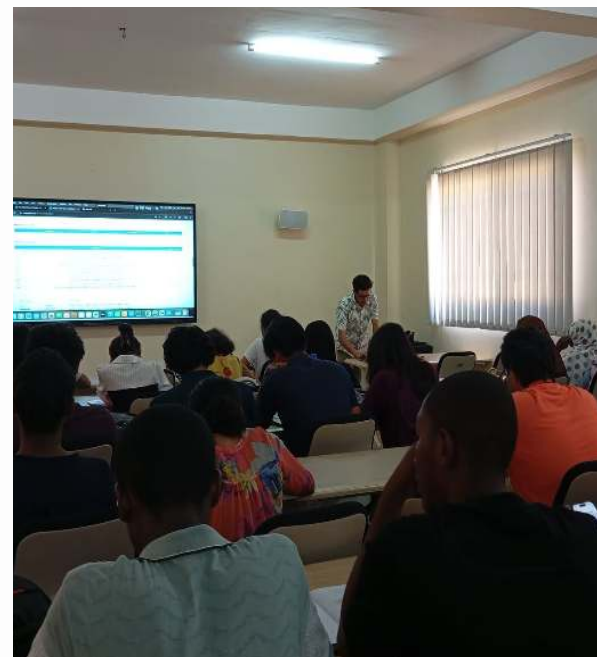
CAMPUS AT A GLANCE

April brought steady momentum across the IIT Madras Zanzibar campus. The semester progressed with the first internal examinations, admissions activities moved forward with the successful M.Tech screening test, and new academic and institutional partnerships continued to take shape. The launch of the JENGA Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship added a new dimension to the campus's growing culture of innovation.



ACADEMICS

The March-June semester settled into its academic rhythm during April, with classes continuing largely in person and students progressing through their courses across the BS and M.Tech programmes. The first internal examinations were held in mid-April, giving students an opportunity to assess their progress as the semester moved forward.



Alongside regular academic activities, placement efforts also began to take shape. The informal placement cell continued reaching out to companies and exploring opportunities for students. One M.Tech student from the DSAI programme secured a **job offer from Novacys Digital**, a company based at IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai.

The semester continued to be supported by faculty members and teaching assistants from both IIT Madras Zanzibar and IIT Madras, along with visiting faculty contributing to the academic programme.

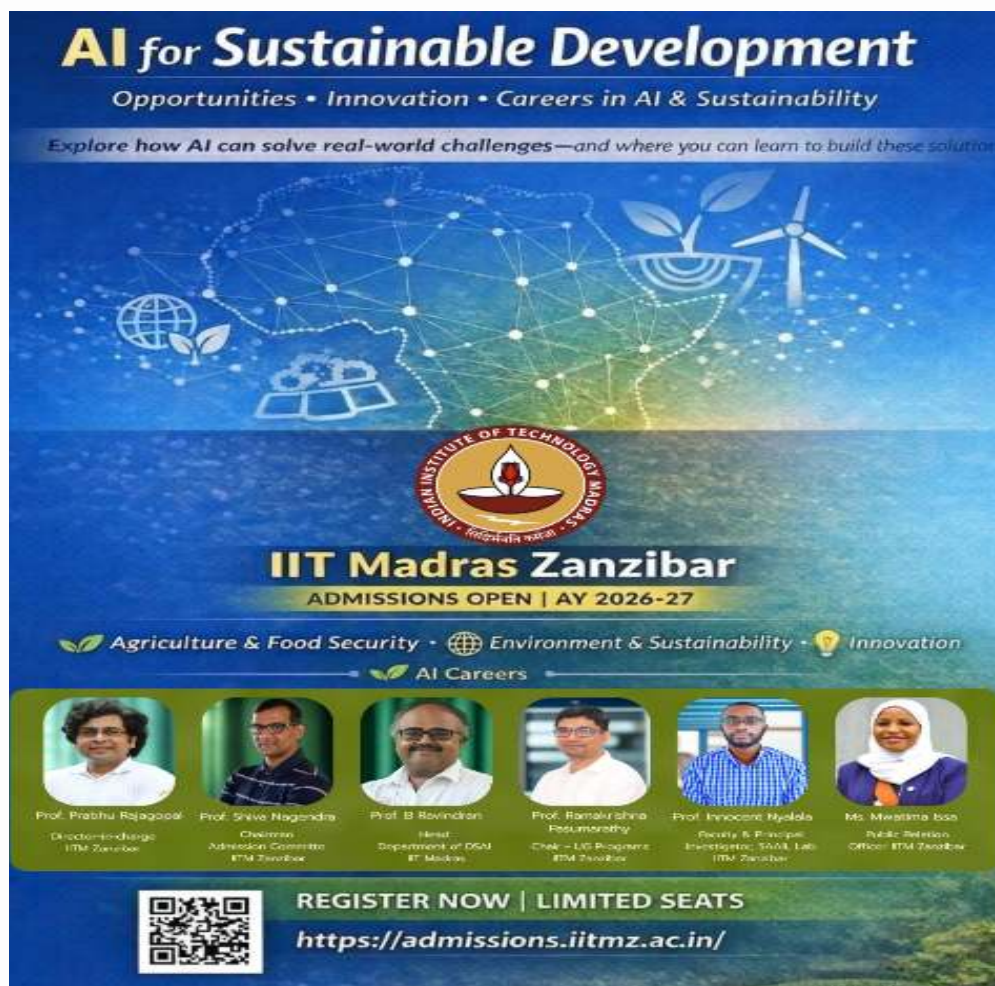
THE NEXT COHORT

The M.Tech admissions process reached an important stage with the screening test held on 26 April.

Alongside this, the outreach for the BS programmes continued through a series of activities aimed at connecting with prospective students and introducing them to the opportunities at IIT Madras Zanzibar.

The “AI for Sustainable Development Webinar” and “Africa & Middle East Exclusive Webinar” provided a platform for participants from across the region to learn more about the undergraduate programmes, the campus, and the wider opportunities available at IIT Madras Zanzibar and at the intersection of artificial intelligence and sustainability.

The application deadline was further extended to 15 April, bringing the month's admissions outreach to a close as the institute continued to connect with prospective students across different regions.



AI for Sustainable Development
Opportunities • Innovation • Careers in AI & Sustainability
Explore how AI can solve real-world challenges—and where you can learn to build these solutions

IIT Madras Zanzibar
ADMISSIONS OPEN | AY 2026-27

Agriculture & Food Security • Environment & Sustainability • Innovation
AI Careers

Prof. Prabhu Rajagopal
Director-in-Charge
IITM Zanzibar

Prof. Shiva Nagendra
Chairman
Admission Committee
IITM Zanzibar

Prof. B. Ravindran
Head
Department of DSM
IIT Madras

Prof. Ramakrishna
Rasumbrathy
Chair - UG Programs
IITM Zanzibar

Prof. Innocent Nyelala
Faculty & Principal
Investigator, SAAR Lab
IITM Zanzibar

Ms. Mwatima Issa
Public Relation
Officer - IITM Zanzibar

REGISTER NOW | LIMITED SEATS
<https://admissions.iitmz.ac.in/>



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Building connections with academic institutions, industry, and public organisations remained an important part of the campus's activities during April.

The institute welcomed representatives from **CPHK Labs**, **Mbeya University of Science and Technology**, and the **Zambia University of Technology**, with discussions exploring opportunities for collaboration in areas including research, academic exchange, and innovation.



The campus also hosted officials from the **Controller and Auditor General's Office**, where discussions explored the potential use of artificial intelligence in auditing and the possibility of developing AI-focused training programmes for auditors.

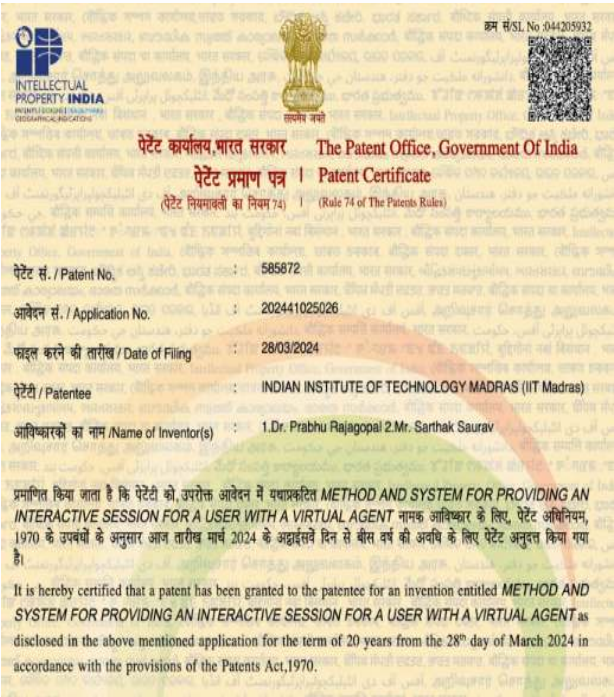
The institute also continued to strengthen connections beyond the campus through visits to organisations such as **India Accelerator** and **Bhashini**, providing opportunities to learn from established innovation and technology ecosystems and explore possibilities for future engagement.

Together, these engagements brought a range of academic, industry, and public-sector perspectives to the campus, opening up opportunities for future collaboration and knowledge exchange.



RESEARCH & BEYOND

Research activity continued to grow across the campus, with faculty and students contributing to publications, conference presentations, and international research initiatives in areas including artificial intelligence, machine learning, signal processing, and data science. The month also saw a **patent achievement** associated with **Prof. Prabhu Rajagopal, Director-in-charge of IIT Madras Zanzibar**



The Friday **Seminar Series** continued to bring new ideas and perspectives to the campus, giving students opportunities to engage with researchers and explore topics beyond their regular coursework.

**IIT Madras Zanzibar**

SEMINAR SERIES

Understanding Graph Eigenvalues through Graph Operations

**Dr. G. Arunkumar**
Assistant Professor
Department of Mathematics
IIT Madras

About the Talk

Explore how eigenvalues help us understand complex networks in science and engineering.

- Learn how large graphs can be analyzed using smaller ones
- Insights into graph joins and H-joins
- Introduction to the concept of the main function
- Applications in constructing cospectral graphs

No deep background in spectral graph theory required!

About the Speaker

G. Arunkumar is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at IIT Madras, currently teaching at the IITM Zanzibar campus, where he enjoys teaching and exploring mathematical ideas in an intuitive and accessible way. His research interests include spectral graph theory, algebraic combinatorics and infinite-dimensional Lie algebras. His work focuses on understanding the interaction between Lie algebra and graph theory, particularly in studying eigenvalues of graphs through graph operations. He has contributed to recent developments on the spectra of division of graphs and related topics. Before joining IIT Madras, he was associated with IIT Chennai.

Friday, 10 April 2026 | 4:00 PM
@ IITMZ Auditorium

**IIT Madras Zanzibar**

SEMINAR SERIES

Engineering Process Systems in the AI Era

**Prof. Raghunathan Rengaswamy**
Faculty - School of Engg. & Science
Chairperson - Advisory Council, IITMZ

About the Talk

Engineering process systems span critical tasks like design, modeling, simulation, monitoring, and control. With the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence, these areas are undergoing transformative change. This talk explores how AI is reshaping systems engineering, backed by insights from three decades of research.

Special focus:

- AI in real-world engineering systems
- Intersections of data, computation, and design
- Novel ideas like unsupervised learning in binary data

About the Speaker

Prof. Raghunathan Rengaswamy is a leading expert in systems engineering and AI, with over three decades of research and global academic experience.

- Fellow, INAE
- Award-winning researcher & educator
- Co-founder of multiple IITM incubated startups in AI & IoT

Friday, 17 April 2026 | 4:00 PM
@ IITMZ Auditorium

**IIT Madras Zanzibar**

SEMINAR SERIES

Bounds for Joint Probabilities of Multi-State Systems Using Preservation of Log-Concavity

**Prof. Sanjeev Sabnis**
Professor of Mathematics, IIT Bombay

About the Talk

Log-concavity plays a crucial role in Reliability Theory and statistical modeling of complex systems. This talk explores how log-concavity is preserved in multi-state systems—both discrete and continuous—across series, parallel, and hybrid configurations and its applications in obtaining bounds for joint probabilities for multi-state systems.

Key highlights:

- Multi-state system modeling
- Preservation of log-concavity
- Bounds on joint probabilities
- Applications in reliability and industrial systems

About the Speaker

Prof. Sanjeev Sabnis retired from the Department of Mathematics at IIT Bombay in June 2024 after serving the institute for more than 34 years and is now a visiting faculty member at the Department of Statistics, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPU) (formerly the University of Pune), Pune, India.

Friday, 24 April 2026 | 4:00 PM
@ IITMZ Auditorium

Alongside these discussions, research teams from IIT Madras Zanzibar continued to gain recognition through publications, conference acceptances, and participation in international challenges.

IIT Madras Zanzibar

FROM IITM ZANZIBAR TO OXFORD:
PAPER ACCEPTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**AI Policy Harmonisation in East Africa:
Cultural Sustainability in the New Technological Age**

Thursday, 14 May 2026
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Dr. Hope McCoy
Faculty

Dr. Innocent Nyalala
Faculty

ABOUT THE PAPER
Exploring the intersection of technology and culture, this research presents a framework for harmonising AI policies in East Africa while preserving cultural sustainability in a rapidly evolving technological age.

HIGHLIGHTS

Interdisciplinary collaboration between Social Sciences & Data Science

Focus on culturally-sensitive AI policy implementation

Addressing East Africa's unique cultural landscape in the AI era

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
We are grateful to IIT Madras Zanzibar for fostering an environment that supports impactful and meaningful research.

IIT Madras Zanzibar

CVPR
JUNE 3-7, 2026

DENVER COLORADO

MIDAS LAB

Congratulations to Sreejita Roy and Dr. Tushar Shinde!

We are delighted to share that our paper has been accepted for publication at the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR 2026) workshop on **New Trends in AI-Generated Media and Security (AIMS)** (Proceedings Track), to be held in Colorado, USA in June 2026.

DriftForensics: Representation Drift Statistics as Zero-Shot Forensic Fingerprints for AI-Generated Image Attribution*

It introduces representation drift statistics as a zero-shot forensic fingerprint for attributing AI-generated images, addressing critical challenges in AI-generated media security.

We sincerely congratulate our first-year M.Tech student **Sreejita Roy** on this achievement and appreciate the strong research culture at MIDAS Lab (Multimedia Intelligence, Data Analysis and compression), led by **Dr. Tushar Shinde**, for fostering impactful research at an early stage of the M.Tech program at IIT Madras Zanzibar.

Sreejita Roy
M.Tech Student

Dr. Tushar Shinde
Faculty

ICLR
International Conference on Learning Representations

IIT Madras Zanzibar

MIDAS LAB

Congratulations to Dr. Tushar Shinde on this remarkable milestone!

We are proud to share that his research paper, "Geometry-Preserving Coresets for Quantized Foundation Models in Remote Sensing," has been accepted for presentation at the prestigious **ICLR 2026 Workshop (DATA-FM)** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (April 23-27, 2026).

Adding to this achievement, he has also been selected as a recipient of the **DATA-FM Early Career Registration Award!**

Dr. Shinde's work continues to make a global impact in the field of AI and data science, representing IIT Madras Zanzibar on an international stage.

Wishing him continued success and many more milestones ahead!

SAAIL LAB
Sustainable AI for Agriculture & Intelligent Livelihoods

IIT Madras Zanzibar

AGRICULTURE-VISION

CVPR
JUNE 3-7, 2026

DENVER COLORADO

Proud Moment for SAAIL Lab!

Our research paper has been accepted at the prestigious **CVPR 2026** under the **7th Workshop on Vision for Agriculture (V4A 2026)**

Paper Title
CLOVES-4603: Benchmarking Classical Texture Features and Fine-Tuned Deep Models for Clove Quality Grading

Workshop Details
June 3-7, 2026
Denver, Colorado, USA

About the Work

First public benchmark dataset for clove quality grading

Built using 4,603 standardized images

Deep learning models achieved 99.67% accuracy

Why It Matters

This research addresses real-world challenges in Zanzibar's agricultural sector—where quality grading is still manual, inconsistent, and costly.

Classical methods reached 92.94% accuracy

Bringing AI-powered precision to support farmers and improve livelihoods.

Our Vision
Empowering farmers with cutting-edge AI to ensure fair, accurate, and efficient agricultural practices.

Patrick Vincent Ndovo
M.Tech Student

Dr. Innocent Nyalala
Faculty - ITMZ

IIT Madras Zanzibar

ICML
International Conference on Machine Learning

Congratulations to Our Faculty!

We are thrilled to celebrate the achievement of **Dr. Tushar Shinde** and **Dr. Hitika Tiwari** on the acceptance of their workshop "GlobalSouthML" at **ICML 2026** – one of the world's leading conferences in machine learning!

Seoul, South Korea | July 6-11, 2026

The workshop will be jointly organized by a globally diverse team of researchers from Tanzania, France, Brazil, USA, South Africa, Canada, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Australia, and India. It brings together impactful initiatives focused on empowering researchers from underrepresented regions in the Global South and advancing machine learning for developing countries, with a strong emphasis on inclusive, deployment-aware, and resource-efficient AI research.

A significant milestone, this marks their first ICML workshop building on the success of **GlobalSouthAI @ AAAI 2026**.

Kudos to the entire team for championing impactful, globally relevant AI research!

Dr. Tushar Shinde
Faculty

Dr. Hitika Tiwari
Faculty

SAAIL LAB
Sustainable AI for Agriculture & Intelligent Livelihoods

IIT Madras Zanzibar

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

PAPER ACCEPTANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Deep Learning for Automated Clove Quality Grading: A Feasibility Study Using CNN Architectures on a Novel Zanzibar Dataset

About the Work

- Deep learning approach for automated clove quality grading
- Built using a novel dataset from Zanzibar
- Collaboration with Zanzibar State Trading Corporation (ZSTC)
- Focus on solving real agricultural challenges using AI

Impact
Advancing responsible AI for agriculture
Empowering local solutions with local data

Achievement Highlight

- Travel Grant Awarded: \$980
- Supporting participation in regional AI dialogue

Acknowledgement
Grateful to the EAC STI community and IIT Madras Zanzibar for continuous support

4TH EAC REGIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CONFERENCE
Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for a Resilient, Inclusive and Prosperous East Africa
20-24 November 2025
KISumu CONVENTION CENTRE, RWANDA

Patrick Vincent Ndovo
M.Tech Student

Dr. Innocent Nyalala
Faculty - ITMZ

IIT Madras Zanzibar

CVPR
JUNE 3-7, 2026

DENVER COLORADO

MIDAS LAB

Congratulations to Sreejita Roy!

We are delighted to share that our student **Sreejita Roy**, working with **Dr. Tushar Shinde**, has been selected for the competitive **IEEE TCMC Student Travel Grant** of USD \$800 to attend the **CVPR 2026** workshop on **New Trends in AI-Generated Media and Security (AIMS)**, to be held in Colorado, USA in June 2026.

"DriftForensics: Representation Drift Statistics as Zero-Shot Forensic Fingerprints for AI-Generated Image Attribution"

This recognition highlights the quality and impact of her research in AI-generated media forensics and security.

We sincerely congratulate our first-year M.Tech student and appreciate the strong research culture at MIDAS Lab (Multimedia Intelligence, Data Analysis and Compression), led by Prof. Tushar Shinde, for fostering impactful research at an early stage of the M.Tech program at IIT Madras Zanzibar.

Sreejita Roy
M.Tech Student

IIT Madras Zanzibar

MIDAS LAB

INTERNATIONAL NEURAL NETWORK SOCIETY

WCCI
IEEE WCCI 2026

2026 IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence
29 - 30 June 2026
WCCW, Maastricht, THE NETHERLANDS

Congratulations to Nimalesh Elangovan, Dr. Tushar Shinde, and Dr. Hitika Tiwari!

We are delighted to share that our paper has been accepted to the **International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) Main Track** at **IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI) 2026**, to be held in Maastricht, Netherlands in June 2026.

"MLD-Sup: Multi-scale Latent Deep Supervision for Joint Segmentation and Classification of Breast Ultrasound Images"

This research proposes a novel multi-scale deep supervision framework for robust joint lesion segmentation and classification in breast ultrasound imaging.

We sincerely congratulate our M.Tech student **Nimalesh Elangovan** on this achievement and appreciate the strong research culture at MIDAS Lab (Multimedia Intelligence, Data Analysis and compression), IIT Madras Zanzibar.

Nimalesh Elangovan
M.Tech Student

Dr. Tushar Shinde
Faculty

Dr. Hitika Tiwari
Faculty

The launch of the **JENGA Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE)** added another important dimension to the campus's growing research and innovation ecosystem. The centre aims to give students a space to explore ideas, experiment with solutions, and take their first steps towards turning those ideas into meaningful projects and ventures.



Students, too, continued to make their mark, with their work and participation earning recognition across academic and innovation platforms.

Together, these activities reflect a campus where research is not limited to publications alone, but also creates opportunities for discussion, experimentation, and innovation.

CAMPUS LIFE & COMMUNITY

Life on campus was not all about classes and assignments. Football, kabaddi, and volleyball gave students plenty of opportunities to step away from their academic routines, stay active, and enjoy some friendly competition.

These moments - whether on the field or simply spending time together outside the classroom - are an important part of student life, helping friendships grow and giving the campus its own sense of energy and community.

The institute's activities also received attention beyond the campus, with media coverage helping share IIT Madras Zanzibar's work and growing presence with a wider audience. These moments add to the everyday story of a young campus finding its rhythm and building a community of its own.



LOOKING AHEAD

As the semester moves forward, the campus looks ahead to new academic milestones, continued outreach, and more opportunities for students and faculty to learn, connect, and grow.

The next chapter is already underway...

For more updates

