



**IIT Madras
Zanzibar**

SASISHO

The IITM Zanzibar Chronicle

A journey through academics, collaborations, student achievements, and campus life at IIT Madras Zanzibar.

May 2026 Edition

www.iitmz.ac.in/newsletter

CAMPUS AT A GLANCE

May was an active month at IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus as the March–June semester continued with regular academic activities, industry engagement, and student initiatives. Classes progressed largely in person, while faculty, students, and staff remained involved in research seminars, outreach programmes, industrial visits, and international collaborations. The month also saw steady progress in admissions, placement activities, and preparations for the next academic year, reflecting the campus's focus on providing a well-rounded learning experience.

ACADEMICS

Academic activities remained on track throughout May as the March–June semester progressed steadily. Most classes continued in person, with a few conducted online where required, ensuring that teaching and learning carried on smoothly despite the regional challenges.

Students completed their second round of **internal examinations** during the month, marking an important milestone in the semester. Teaching was supported by a combination of permanent faculty, visiting faculty members, and teaching assistants, providing students with continuous academic guidance. At the same time, placement and internship activities gathered pace, with the campus actively engaging industry partners.

The month also brought encouraging news as an M.Tech student received an **offer from IIT Madras Research Park**, while internship opportunities continued to be pursued for students.

ADMISSIONS IN FOCUS

With the BS Screening Test scheduled for early June, May was dedicated to the final phase of the admissions process. The campus focused on outreach activities and last-minute preparations to ensure prospective students were well informed and that examination arrangements were in place across multiple centres.



Two posters for IIT Madras Zanzibar admissions. The top poster is titled 'DEADLINE EXTENDED' and states 'Applications for BS Programs at IIT Madras Zanzibar are open till May 15, 2026'. It lists two programs: 'Bachelor's in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence' and 'Bachelor's in Chemical Process Engineering'. It also mentions 'Why choose this program?' with icons for 'In-demand skills', 'Applied learning', and 'Global network'. The bottom poster is titled 'IMPORTANT DATES' and lists: 'Application Closing Date: Friday, May 15, 2026', 'Date of Examination: Saturday, June 06, 2026', 'Examination Time: 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM IST (11.30 AM - 2:30 PM EAT)', 'Date of Interviews for shortlisted Candidates: Mid-June 2026', and 'Announcing results and sending admission letters: Early-July 2026'. It includes a QR code and the URL 'https://admissions.iitmz.ac.in/bs'.

The M.Tech admissions process also reached an important stage following the screening test conducted in April.

Offers were extended to the selected candidates, while preparations for the BS Screening Test were completed across centres in India, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nigeria, and selected Indian Missions in West Asia.

As the admissions cycle entered its final stage, these efforts reflected the campus's continued focus on reaching talented students from diverse regions and ensuring a smooth admission process.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

May was a month of strengthening academic and industry connections for our campus.

A delegation from the campus visited IIT Madras, Chennai, where they met with the Director, faculty members, and the Dean of Global Engagement to discuss ongoing academic initiatives and future collaborations.

The visit also included tours of the Innovation Hub, IIT Madras Research Park, laboratories, and classrooms, along with interactions with student-led teams at the Centre for Innovation (CFI). These engagements offered valuable insights into the institute's research, innovation, and entrepreneurial ecosystem while fostering closer ties between the two campuses.



The month also saw discussions with the Vigor Group of Companies on opportunities for industry collaboration, student exposure, and executive learning.

Complementing these efforts, students from the Chemical Process Engineering programme visited the Ukweli na Njia Safi seaweed processing facility in Bweleo, gaining first-hand experience of industrial processes and sustainable manufacturing.



Visits Highlights

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Research and innovation continued to gain momentum at IIT Madras Zanzibar during May, with faculty members and students contributing to several notable academic achievements. Research papers from the campus were accepted at leading international conferences, including **IEEE ICASSP 2026**, **IEEE/CVF CVPR 2026**, and **Data Science Africa (DSA) 2026**, reflecting the growing research contributions of the institute across diverse fields.

The campus also continued its Academic Seminar Series, where visiting faculty members shared their research and engaged students in discussions on emerging topics. These sessions offered a valuable opportunity for students to look beyond their coursework, interact with experts, and explore new ideas across disciplines.



Congratulations to Dr. Tushar Shinde and Sreejita Roy!

We are delighted to share that our work has been accepted for presentation (with reviews in the Top 15% of accepted papers, receiving a Strong Accept) at the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR 2026) workshop on Women in Computer Vision, to be held in Colorado, USA in June 2026.

AdaCRAD: Adaptive Compression via Representation-Aware Drift for Ranking Preservation in AIGC-IQA

AdaCRAD introduces a drift-aware compression framework for AIGC Image Quality Assessment (IQA) models that preserves ranking-sensitive performance metrics.



Sreejita Roy
M.Tech Student

Dr. Tushar Shinde
Faculty

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.



SEMINAR SERIES

COUNSEL: Cloud Resource Configuration Management using Deep Reinforcement Learning



Dr. Abhinandan SP
Assistant Professor
Mehta Family School of Data Science and AI
IIT Palakkad.

About the Talk

Internet clouds act as service factories offering Infrastructure, Platform, Software, and Function services. Ensuring Service Level Objectives (SLOs) while maintaining efficient resource utilization remains a key challenge due to dynamic workloads and complex configurations.

This talk introduces COUNSEL, a deep reinforcement learning-based framework for efficient resource configuration in multi-component cloud services. Unlike existing approaches, COUNSEL eliminates profiling overhead, scales to dynamic environments, and improves performance.

Experimental results show 20-60% improvement in average reward while meeting SLOs and budget constraints, with constant-time inference.

About the Speaker

Dr. Abhinandan S. P is an Assistant Professor at the Mehta Family School of Data Science and AI, IIT Palakkad. He received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Goettingen, Germany, and was a Marie Curie Fellow. Before joining IIT Palakkad, Abhinandan was an Assistant Professor in the Department of CSE at IIT Ropar. Abhinandan received his MTech degree in information technology from IIT-Bangalore and a B.E. (CS) from NIE Mysuru. Before joining his Ph.D. program, he worked in various roles at IT companies. His research interests are mainly in Systems ML/AL, 6G, and Edge-Space-Continuum.

Friday, 08 May 2026 | 4:00 PM
@ IITMZ Auditorium



SEMINAR SERIES

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Robotics and Surveillance



Dr. Goutam Sanyal
Professor (Emeritus)
Computer Science & Engineering

About the Talk

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming robotics and surveillance by enabling intelligent systems to analyse data, learn from experience, make autonomous decisions, and adapt to dynamic environments.

This talk explores how AI enhances robotic automation, navigation, object recognition, and human-robot interaction, making systems more efficient and adaptable in complex real-world scenarios.

The session will also highlight AI-driven surveillance technologies including facial recognition, anomaly detection, smart video analytics, behaviour analysis, and autonomous drone surveillance.

A special focus will be given to the application of Reinforcement Learning in robotic path planning and visual surveillance systems, showcasing how intelligent agents learn optimal navigation strategies and adaptive monitoring mechanisms.

About the Speaker

Dr. Goutam Sanyal is a Professor (Emeritus) with over 35 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership in Computer Science and Engineering.

He previously served as Professor and Head of the Department of CSE and held several prestigious administrative roles including Dean (Faculty Welfare), Dean (AA & NG), and Dean (Students Welfare) at IIT.

Dr. Sanyal has also contributed to innovation and venture development as a Tenure Leader for a stealth-mode technology start-up.

His expertise spans Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Information Security, Digital Electronics, and Computer Architecture. His research interests include Computer Networks, Wireless Sensor Networks, NLP, Information Security, and Computer Vision using Machine Learning and Deep Learning techniques.

He has authored more than 200 research publications and successfully guided 24 Ph.D. scholars, along with numerous postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Friday, 05 June 2026 at 4 PM @ IITMZ Auditorium



Two of our research teams have successfully cleared Milestone 3 of the IEEE IES Generative AI Challenge 2026

Both teams have been hand-picked by the review panel to submit their work to IRAI 2026 - IEEE International Conference on Responsible Artificial Intelligence Melbourne, Australia | 3-5 September 2026.

Project 1: Team Nexus

Title: CPID-Fusion: Causal Physics-Informed Diffusion for Trustworthy Predictive Maintenance and Counterfactual Prognostics

- Vikalp Srivastava (MTech DSAI)
- Malavika Nithyanand (MTech DSAI)
- Manoj Kumar (Faculty)

Project 2: Team AI-Agent

Title: PhysGAN-Fault: A Physics-Informed Generative Adversarial Network for Synthetic Industrial Fault Data Augmentation

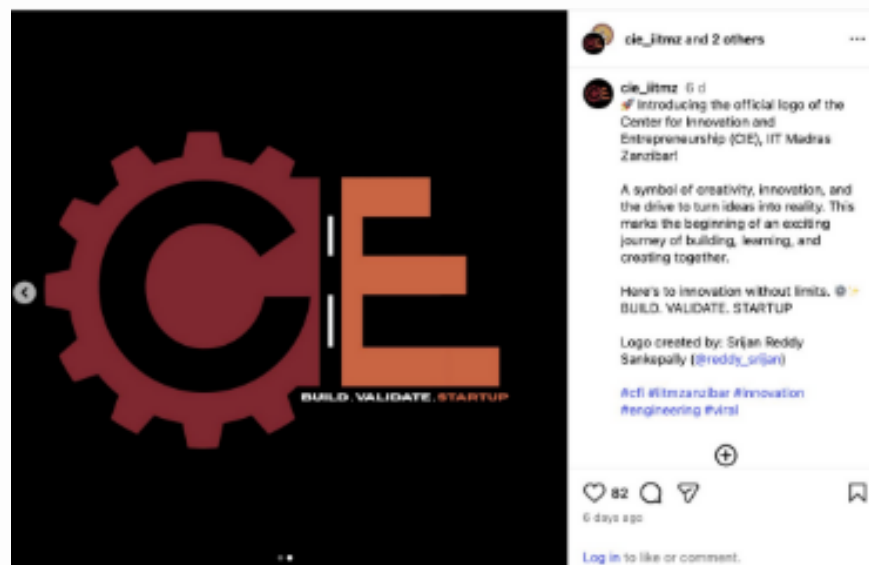
- Ryali Sai Krishna (Team Member)
- Manoj Kumar (Faculty Mentor)



IEEE IES Generative AI Challenge 2026

More details can be found here - ai.ieee-ies.org/index.html

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing an orange button-down shirt, is seated at a wooden desk. He is clapping his hands together in front of him. A large white play button icon is centered over his chest. The background shows a window with light-colored curtains and a white wall.

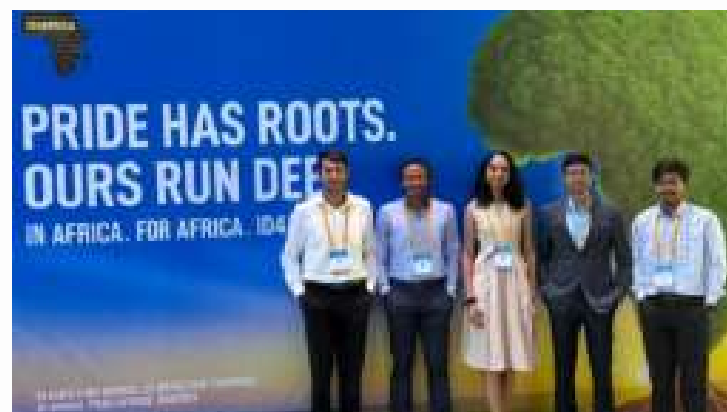


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Students of IIT Madras Zanzibar continued to showcase their talent through research, innovation, and international competitions.

Team **VeriVoice** emerged as one of the finalists in the **Africa Digital ID Hackathon 2026**, organised by the **Upanzi DPI Network** at Carnegie Mellon University Africa. Building on this achievement, the team also represented the campus at the **ID4Africa Annual General Meeting** in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where they presented their solution alongside innovators from across Africa.

Research achievements also brought recognition to several M.Tech students. **Shivam Vyas** received the **IEEE Signal Processing Society Travel Grant** to present his work at **ICASSP 2026** in Barcelona, while **Sreejita Roy** was awarded the **WiCV Travel Grant** to participate in **CVPR 2026**. **Avinash Kumar Sharma** earned recognition in the **IEEE ICME 2026 Grand Challenge**, and student teams progressed to **Milestone 3** of the **IEEE IES Generative AI Challenge 2026**, highlighting the growing research and innovation culture at IIT Madras Zanzibar.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Life at IIT Madras Zanzibar extends beyond academics, with students, faculty, and staff actively engaging with the wider community.

Students from the campus **volleyball team** participated in a joint training session with the Mafunzo Volleyball Team, strengthening teamwork while building connections with the local sporting community. Within the campus, regular Staff and Faculty Engagement Sessions continued to provide a platform for collaboration, open discussions, and sharing ideas across academic and administrative teams.



The institute also remained actively engaged beyond the campus through admissions outreach, Africa Day celebrations, and interactions with government stakeholders. Representatives attended the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training's annual budget presentation and met officials from the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the Zanzibar Foreign Office, reaffirming the institute's commitment to building strong partnerships that support higher education and future initiatives.



LOOKING AHEAD

As the March–June semester enters its final stretch, the campus is preparing for the next important milestone—the arrival of a new batch of students. With the BS Screening Test just around the corner, the focus now shifts to completing the admissions process and welcoming the next generation of learners to IIT Madras Zanzibar.

The experiences of the past few months—from academics and research to industry collaborations and student achievements—have laid a strong foundation for the future. As the campus continues to grow, it remains committed to creating opportunities that inspire curiosity, encourage innovation, and help students learn, grow, and make a meaningful difference.

For more updates

