

IIT at Tanzania and prospects for global south cooperation

“Annadānaṃ Paraṃ Dānaṃ Vidyādānaṃ Ataḥ Paraṃ |

Annena Kṣaṇikā Tṛptiḥ Yāvajjīvaṃ Ca Vidyayā |”

Which means Giving knowledge is a bigger act of generosity than giving food. Food gives us happiness for a while and knowledge for the rest of our lives. In this similar context India has recently established its first international campus of the esteemed Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) in the African nation of Tanzania. In a historic event witnessed by esteemed dignitaries including the President of Zanzibar, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, and the distinguished Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was solemnly signed between the Ministries of Education and the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

India is willing to proactively contribute and promote the exchange of knowledge and foster a mutual transfer of intellectual resources through the establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Tanzania. This collaborative endeavour fosters a symbiotic relationship, facilitating shared, progressive, and collective growth, wherein both nations remain to gain from the wealth of knowledge and experiences carried by the other. The establishment of the IIT campus in Tanzania further indicates the profound commitment to the principles of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (the world is one family) and “Ubuntu,” which emphasise the significant connection and innate unity of humanity. This illustrates India’s unwavering dedication to international engagement and willingness to make real contributions to the advancement and welfare of other nations.

India is actively engaged in the promotion of knowledge transfer and the facilitation of intellectual discourse, thereby fostering an environment that upholds the values of safeguarding and honouring intellectual property. This commitment is shown by India’s endeavour to establish an IIT campus in Tanzania, which serves as a testament to India’s dedication towards fostering global cooperation and the advancement of scholarly pursuits. Intellectual property, a framework of crucial significance, relates to the safeguarding and preservation of creative and innovative works. These rights serve as a guarantee that both individuals and entities are duly acknowledged and given in line economic benefits for their invaluable contributions to the field of intellectual endeavours.

This initiative offers a strong challenge to the prevalent notion of a brutal denial of intellectual property, emphasising the necessity to place it inside an overall historical framework. Throughout the history, it is indisputable that specific geographical areas and societal groups have been subjected to the harmful effects of marginalisation and exclusion by the colonial powers, particularly in relation to the acquisition of education, recognition by perpetrating artificial deglorification. Through the establishment of an IIT campus in Tanzania, India is actively participating in the improvement of this relevant issue, effectively expanding the horizons of educational prospects, and fostering cross-national connectivity. This serves as a strong declaration against the negation of opportunities and the perpetuation of historical inequities by colonialism.

The establishment of the IIT campus in Tanzania would act as a catalyst for fostering inclusivity, encouraging a spirit of cooperation, and dismantling what remains of colonial practises that have historically hindered the pursuit of equitable opportunities and obstructed intellectual growth. This illustrates an enduring dedication to encouraging a more inclusive and

all-encompassing worldview, wherein knowledge and possibilities are open to all. This move is in accordance with the goals defined in India's National Education Policy 2020, which points out the importance of globalising education and promotes for the development of abroad campuses by esteemed Indian universities. The intellectual evolution and development of a nation is interconnected with its ideals of peace, freedom, and independence. Therefore, it is special that India is establishing itself as the leader among the global south in these crucial fields.

This admirable initiative effectively represents the spirit of South-South cooperation, thereby fostering the advancement and development of the Global South. This notable initiative not only serves to strengthen India's global reputation but also strengthens its diplomatic ties. The development serves to significantly enhance India's international presence, thereby strengthening its reputation as a source of excellent higher education and further integrating its position as a leader in the world of global academic circles.

*Views are personal.



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